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A-League Round 20 Friday 21st February - Sunday 23rd February 2014

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Graphics: ALEN DELIC

WINNER TAKES ALL

WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE GRAND FINAL SHOWDOWN

Grand Final

Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar
Sunday 23 February 2014
Lakeside Stadium, Melbourne
Kick-Off 3pm
Gates Open 2pm

Ticket Prices – General Public
Adult - $20
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Family - $40

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It's Victory v Roar Grand Final!

By Katie Lambeski

Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar will fight for the biggest prize in Australian women's football when they meet to decide the W-League champion at Lakeside Stadium at 3pm on Sunday.

Both were expected to be a factor come the business end of the season, courtesy of semi-final wins last weekend over the minor premier Canberra and runners-up Sydney FC respectively, they have not disappointed.

Brisbane's road to the final day was paved by its midfielder Elise Kellond-Knight, her 58th minute goal was the eventual winner in the first semi-final with Canberra United last Saturday. Kim Carroll opened the scoring in just the fourth minute, although was canceled out by Canberra midfielder Caitlin Munoz just twenty minutes after. But the Roar had the final say as Kellond-Knight pounced on an un-cleared corner to place her low skidding shot, eluding Lydia Williams.

Melbourne Victory doesn't do boring. It was proven again in last Sunday's absorbing 3-2 semi-final win over archrival Sydney FC on the road. Despite taking a 2-0 (via goals from the Jess's Fishlock and Humble) nearing halftime, Victory were clawed back by Sam Kerr's strike in stoppage time and Leena Khamis's early second-half goal. Lauren Barnes' spot-kick was coolly converted with just over ten minutes to play, leaving Victory a nervy finish.

And then there were two.

Last week, Victory had to dig deep and withstand the pressure Sydney applied as they chased an equaliser. Should they face the same situation, they can be confident of repeating the heroics. It will be a source of interest to see which line-up David Edmondson settles on. Does teen sensation Beattie Goad retain her spot? Will Caitlin Friend start? What role will Katie Hoyle and mid to late-season signings Maika Ruyter-Hooley, Ella Mastrantonio and Lauren Barnes play? With all the questions, one thing is clear: Melbourne's depth is impressively strong.

Their opponents, Brisbane aren't short of form. Despite up-and-down form over the season, Belinda Wilson's side is coming good heading into the Grand Final, undefeated over the past month. At the forefront of that effort have been Hayley Raso and Larissa Crummer, shining in a side that doesn't want for attacking talent.

Neither side is goal-shy, both have averaged just under two goals a game, although that was dwarfed by Sydney FC's thirty-nine goal season tally. Finals like this one are decided by that one moment or that one stroke of genius from a player. Who will that player be? What will be that defining moment?

Wilson's Brisbane does know how to stifle teams, they did so against Canberra last week, will they do it to Victory? While the defensive duo in Brooke Spence and Kim Carroll marshal the back four, much of the pressure applied comes wide and in midfield. Katrina Gorry and Kellond-Knight have been superb, as has the winger Raso. They will likely need to do the same again, a stern challenge in the form of Friend, Lisa de Vanna, Steph Catley, and Fishlock awaits them.

At risk of stating the obvious, motivation will not be in short supply on Sunday. In search of their maiden W-League crown, Victory will get the chance to farewell Edmondson in perfect fashion before he starts his new venture as coach at Bristol Academy Women's Football Club. Their stars Stephanie Catley and Caitlin Friend will also depart for Portland Thorns and English Women's Soccer League club Notts County.

Brisbane have the chance to cement themselves as the team head and shoulders above the rest when it comes to success, hoping to add to their titles in seasons 2008/09 and 2010/11. They have been a picture of stability and success over the years, a team never far away from the title picture.

It is hard to tip a winner, it is that close. Brisbane had the better of Victory in the last meeting between the two, courtesy of their 1-0 win in the last home-and-away round. Not to say Victory didn't have the better of the chances then however. Will it be an Orange or Blue Sunday?

Jessica Fishlock of the Victory celebrates with team mates after scoring the first goal during the W-League Semi Final match between Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory at WIN Jubilee Stadium on February 16, 2014 in Sydney, Australia. Photo by Matt King/Getty Images

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Canberra United	12	9	0	3	28	8	20	27
2 Sydney FC	12	8	2	2	37	14	23	26
3 Melbourne Victory	12	7	2	3	23	12	11	23
4 Brisbane Roar	12	7	2	3	22	16	6	23
5 Perth Glory	12	5	0	7	17	31	-14	15
6 Adelaide United	12	3	4	5	12	15	-3	13
7 Wanderers	12	2	3	7	17	23	-6	9
8 Newcastle Jets	12	0	1	11	10	47	-37	1

Finals Series

Westfield W-League 2014 Finals Series Review

Canberra United 1 (Caitlin Munoz 23')
Brisbane Roar 2 (Kim Carroll 4', Elise Kellond-Knight 58')
Saturday 15 February 2014
McKellar Park, Canberra
Kick-off: 3pm

Referee: Kirralee Andruschak

Canberra United: Lydia WILLIAMS (gk), Catherine BROWN (Meg McLAUGHLIN 88'), Kendall FLETCHER, Ellie BRUSH, Caitlin MUNOZ (Sally SHIPARD 70'), Michelle HEYMAN, Sally ROJAHN, Nicole SYKES, Ashleigh SYKES (Georgia YEOMAN-DALE 50'), Lori LINDSEY, Stephanie OCHS
Substitutes – Trudy BURKE (gk), Grace GILL
Cautions – Sally Rojahn 82, Georgia Yeoman-Dale 87', Nicole Sykes 97', Sally Shipard 97'

Brisbane Roar: Nadine ANGERER (gk), Laura ALLEWAY, Brooke SPENCE, Kim CARROLL, Elise KELLOND-KNIGHT, Katrina GORRY, Vedrana POPOVIC, Tameka BUTT, Hayley RASO (Joanne BURGESS 45'), Emily GIELNIK (Sunny FRANCO 84'), Ayesha NORRIE (Larissa CRUMMER 65')
Substitutes – Kate STEWART (gk), Clare POLKINGHORNE
Cautions – None

Sydney FC 2 (Sam Kerr 45+2', Leena Khamis 52')
Melbourne Victory 3 (Jess Fishlock 22', Jessica Humble 37', Lauren Barnes 71' (pen))
Sunday 16 February 2014
WIN Jubilee Oval, Kogarah, Sydney
Kick-off: 3pm

Referee: Kate Jacewicz

Sydney FC: Casey DUMONT (gk), Teresa POLIAS, Alesha CLIFFORD, Nicola BOLGER, Amy HARRISON (Ellyse PERRY 71'), Caitlin FOORD, Renee ROLLASON, Jodie TAYLOR, Emma KETE (Chloe LOGARZO 80'), Sam KERR, Leena KHAMIS
Substitutes – Sham KHAMIS (gk), Danielle BROGAN, Trudy CAMILLERI
Cautions – Teresa Polias 14', Leena Khamis 39', Caitlin Foord 64'

Melbourne Victory: Brianna DAVEY (gk), Jessica HUMBLE, Stephanie CATLEY, Jessica FISHLOCK, Lisa DE VANNA, Jessica SAMUELSSON, Emma CHECKER, Beattie GOAD, Gulcan KOCA (Caitlin FRIEND 54'), Ella MASTRANTONIO (Emily HULBERT 66'), Lauren BARNES
Substitutes – Cassandra DIMOVSKI (gk), Laura SPIRANOVIC, Alexandra NATOLI
Cautions – Lauren Barnes 14', Jess Fishlock 92'

Grand Final

Melbourne Victory
v
Brisbane Roar
Sunday 23 February 2014
Lakeside Stadium,
Melbourne
Kick-Off 3pm
Gates Open 2pm

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Family - $40

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ADP TO PLAY FOR ALL STARS v JUVE

Alessandro del Piero has confirmed his commitment to the FOXTEL A-League All Stars for the marquee match against Juventus FC in Sydney this August.

The surprise new chapter in the legendary tale of 'Ale' and 'Juve' will unfold in Sydney on Sunday 10 August at ANZ Stadium.

For the first time ever, Alessandro Del Piero will confront the famous club where he spent 19 glorious years, 11 seasons as captain, scored a record 290 goals and played 705 matches.

Instead of the distinctive Bianconeri stripes, Juve's iconic captain of 11 years will wear the blue and yellow of the All Stars.

Del Piero's move to join the All Stars has added another magical ingredient to an event already glittering with stars.

Tickets for the FOXTEL A-League All Stars v Juventus FC match on 10 August in Sydney go on sale on Tuesday.

To purchase tickets, please visit www.a-leagueallstars.com.au

Speaking at the official ticketing launch, which was held at the Sydney Opera House, Football Federation Australia CEO David Gallop said the FOXTEL A-League All Stars game was all about showcasing the best players from the Hyundai A-League against top international opposition.

"To have a club of the calibre of Juventus FC come to Sydney is a massive coup for football in Australia," said Gallop.

"To put it into perspective, it's very possible that of the 24 players in the Juventus FC first team squad, 16 players could be at the 2014 FIFA World Cup representing eight different nations.

"This match will be a fantastic opportunity for fans to see the best of the Hyundai A-League line-up against some of the world's best international footballers in our own backyard," concluded Gallop

NSW Major Events Minister George Souris is excited Sydney will host one of the world's top football clubs this August.

"I am delighted that Italy's Serie A champions, Juventus are bringing their football skills to Sydney, Australia's premier sports and major events city," Mr Souris said.

"By hosting this champion team, Sydney and NSW will again be on show to the world, confirming our position as Australia's home of major events.

"The NSW Government has secured 197 events since March 2011 boosting the State's economy by about $1.33 billion.

Ben Buckley, Executive Director - Sports & Content Partnerships and Foxtel Victoria said: "Foxtel is delighted to be the official naming rights sponsor of the Foxtel A-League All Stars team. We are thrilled to be able to support Football Federation Australia in bringing a team of Juventus FC's quality to Australia in just the second year of our partnership, once again showing Foxtel's commitment to football in Australia"

Commenting, Tim Worner, the CEO of the Seven Network, said: "We are once again delighted to be involved with David Gallop and Football Federation Australia in delivering this major event live to Australians everywhere and on every device. We are committed to building our presence in major sports events across not just our broadcast television platform but online and other tablet apps as well. We are looking forward to a terrific coverage."

Juventus FC, the most successful club in Italy's history with a world-wide fan base of 250 million, will bring a full-strength team to Sydney to face the pick of the Hyundai A-League at ANZ Stadium.

Fans will again have the opportunity to help select the Head Coach of the Foxtel A-League All Stars and the players in the squad via online voting mechanism. The voting details will be available from the new Foxtel A-League All Stars web site (www.a-leagueallstars.com.au) in the coming weeks.

Tickets for the FOXTEL A-League All Stars v Juventus FC went on sale in an exclusive Football Family Pre-Sale Window from 12pm on Tuesday 18 February with the public on sale from 11am on Friday 21 February (www.a-leagueallstars.com.au).

Official travel packages for interstate and international visitors are also on sale now. For the latest information please visit www.a-leagueallstars.com.au/travel

Corporate hospitality packages are also available from ANZ Stadium (www.anzstadium.com.au)

The FOXTEL A-League All Stars v Juventus FC match will be broadcast live and exclusive on the Seven Network.

FFA EXTENDS LICENCES

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has taken a decision to extend the licences of the nine Australian clubs in the Hyundai A-League until 2034.

The current licences of the clubs had an existing term running until 2020.

FFA CEO David Gallop said the licence extension to 2034 would provide the clubs with long-term certainty for their planning and investment.

"FFA and the clubs have made the stability and sustainability of the A-League the top priority," said Gallop.

"Today's decision is consistent with our long-term strategy. The extension will give the clubs the certainty they need over a 20-year timeframe to invest, and will also underpin and enhance the value of the licence.

"The Hyundai A-League is enjoying another great season with attendances, TV ratings, digital audiences and membership all increasing. The licence extension is a sign of confidence that the business model is on the right track for long-term success."

The decision is not applicable to Wellington Phoenix, whose licence term runs until 2016.

The New Zealand club's participation in the Hyundai A-League beyond 2016 is subject to approval from FIFA, the AFC and FFA. The issue will be addressed in separate discussions with the club.

In relation to the sale of the Western Sydney Wanderers, FFA reaffirms that no final decision has been made and that discussions are continuing with prospective buyers.

In other matters, FFA today confirmed that each Hyundai A-League club will have a limit of five (5) visa players for next season, 2014/15. In the following season 2015/16 the limit will be reduced to four (4) visa players.

A feasibility study will be conducted for possible future implementation of a "3 + 1" model, under which one visa player is Asian.

"The foreign visa players bring so much to the Hyundai A-League in terms of technical ability and marketing interest, but we must also nurture our young Australian players," said Gallop.

"We have taken a prudent step to reduce the visa limit over a number of years to create more opportunities for local, elite youth players, while acknowledging that the visa players have an important role as we continue to build the competition.

"The idea of a '3 + 1' model being introduced at some stage is aimed at strengthening our links to Asia, where football is undergoing a boom on the technical, professional and business levels.

"This model would align our competition with the AFC Champions League and assist clubs in setting up their player rosters.

"Overall, we view the adjustments in the visa player limits as another step in our strategic plan for the A-League."

Carrusca to remain a Red

Adelaide United FC is pleased to officially announce that 30 year old Argentinean midfielder Marcelo Carrusca has agreed to terms to remain with the Reds for the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League season.

In 2006 Carrusca signed for arguably Turkey's biggest club, Galatasaray, where he featured in two UEFA Champions League games and two UEFA Cup matches before being loaned to Mexican Primera Division's Cruz Azul in 2008. Carrusca who also represented his home country at Under 20 level, having competed at the 2003FIFA World Youth Championship as a team-mate to players such as Carlos Tevez, Javier Mascerano and Pablo Zabaleta to name just a few said many factors contributed to his decision to remain a Red beyond the 2013/14 season.

The new deal will see Carrusca remain at Adelaide for at least his third season with the new contract concluding at the end of May 2015.

SFC AND WEBJET AGREE NEW 2 YEAR DEAL

Sydney FC and Webjet have agreed a new major commercial partnership which will see Australia and New Zealand's largest online travel agency by flights traffic, become the Sky Blues front of shirt sponsor for the next two years.

Webjet has been the principal partner of Sydney FC since the start of the 2012/13 Hyundai A-League season and both parties are delighted to renew their relationship.

Socceroos Launch World Cup Kit

Nike Australia and Football Federation Australia revealed the Australian National Team Kit to be worn by the Socceroos at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

The new Socceroos kit combines the best in performance innovation with evocative design details that capture the unique and pioneering national spirit of Australia, paying homage to the 1974 World Cup team.

Current Socceroos Mark Bresciano and Michael Zullo and coach Ange Postecoglou were joined by Socceroos legends from every decade from the 1960s onwards, for the official launch in Walsh Bay, Sydney.

The jersey boasts a stylish and modern green Johnny collar, another reference from the iconic 1974 Socceroos kit. Nike's design team skilfully placed the Australian coat of arms on the chest of the jersey within a new shield that replicates the shape of the crest worn on the jerseys at the 1974 tournament, and fulfils the current Socceroos' stated desire to "feel the history of our country."

Inside the back of the neck is a woven pennant tab featuring Football Federation Australia's logo surrounded by the famous and inspiring quote, "We Socceroos can do the impossible," from Peter Wilson, the captain of the 1974 Australian squad.

The new shorts are a traditional green with venting to assist in cooling, and a cut specifically designed to aid movement and comfort. Simple and iconic, the fit is slimmer and more tailored to the body based on fit research with a cut specifically designed to aid movement and comfort. The centre back of the shorts feature Nike's signature laser vents to aid in cooling and allow for moisture management.

The return of white home socks is also inspired by the 1974 kit, a change from the recent tradition of yellow socks.

When Australia reached the 1974 World Cup finals for the first time in West Germany it was a remarkable achievement. Today the players from that team are still revered as pioneers and heroes. The new Australian jersey is in a vibrant yellow inspired by the design worn 40 years ago.

"The Socceroos will take on the world in Brazil determined to represent every Australian by showing the same spirit that binds the fabric of our country," said Socceroo Coach Ange Postecoglou. "The 1974 team were trailblazers for our country and the 2014 Socceroos will wear a strip that will help inspire our players to represent the values of Australia by paying tribute to the 1974 Team."

On the new design, Martin Lotti, Nike Football Creative Director said: "In addition to providing the leading performance benefits and innovations, our aim is to celebrate each country's national pride," said.

"We looked at the way Australia qualified for their first ever World Cup in 1974. These same determined qualities endure today and we wanted to reflect them in a kit that both celebrates Australia's history and inspires the team that will play in Brazil."

The Australian National Team kit will be available February 20, 2014 at Nike Only Stores, Rebel and all good football retailers. Pre-order from February 18, 2014 at shop.footballaustralia.com.au

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SCOREBOARD

ROUND NINETEEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last 5 matches
1 Brisbane Roar	19	12	2	5	33	17	+16	38	L D W W D
2 Western Sydney Wanderers	19	8	7	4	23	19	+4	31	D D W L L
3 Adelaide United	19	7	6	6	30	24	+6	27	W W L D W
4 Melbourne Victory	19	7	6	6	26	29	-3	27	W D L L W
5 Central Coast Mariners	19	7	6	6	19	22	-3	27	L L L W W
6 Sydney	19	8	1	10	25	28	-3	25	W L L W L
7 Wellington Phoenix	19	6	5	8	26	28	-2	23	L W W L W
8 Newcastle Jets	19	6	5	8	20	25	-5	23	W L D L L
9 Perth Glory	19	5	6	8	19	22	-3	21	L L D L D
10 Melbourne Heart	19	4	6	9	23	30	-7	18	W W W D W

Adelaide United 2 (Carrusca 33, Ferreira 45+2)
Central Coast Mariners 0
Crowd: 6980 @ Coopers Stadium

Wellington Phoenix 0
Melbourne Heart FC 5 (Engelaar 9', Williams 19', 51', 63', Wielaert 54')
Crowd: 9,767 @ Westpac Stadium, Wellington

Brisbane Roar 0
Newcastle Jets 1 (Adam Taggart 57(p)')
Sunday, 16 February 2014
Crowd: 13,066 @ Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

Sydney FC 2 (Ranko Despotovic 17', Terry Antonis 65')
Perth Glory 1 (Rostyn Griffiths 67')
Crowd: 11, 160 @ Allianz Stadium

Melbourne Victory 3 (Thompson, Barbarouses, Finkler)
Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Juric)
Played Tuesday 14th January

THIS WEEK

Round 20	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Fri Feb 21	Central Coast Mariners v Wellington Phoenix	Bluetongue Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sat Feb 22	Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC Hunter	Stadium	5:30 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Feb 22	Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sat Feb 22	Perth Glory v West Sydney Wanderers	nib Stadium	6:30 PM	9:30 PM
Sun Feb 23	Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar	AAMI Park	5:00 PM	5:00 PM

NEXT WEEK

Round 21	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Fri Feb 28	Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory	Suncorp Stadium	7:00 PM	8:00 PM
Sat Mar 1	Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Mar 1	Melbourne Heart v Melbourne Victory	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sun Mar 2	Adelaide United v Wellington Phoenix	Hindmarsh Stadium	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Sun Mar 2	West Sydney Wanderers v Newcastle Jets	Parramatta Stadium	5:00 PM	5:00 PM

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A-League Title 2013/14

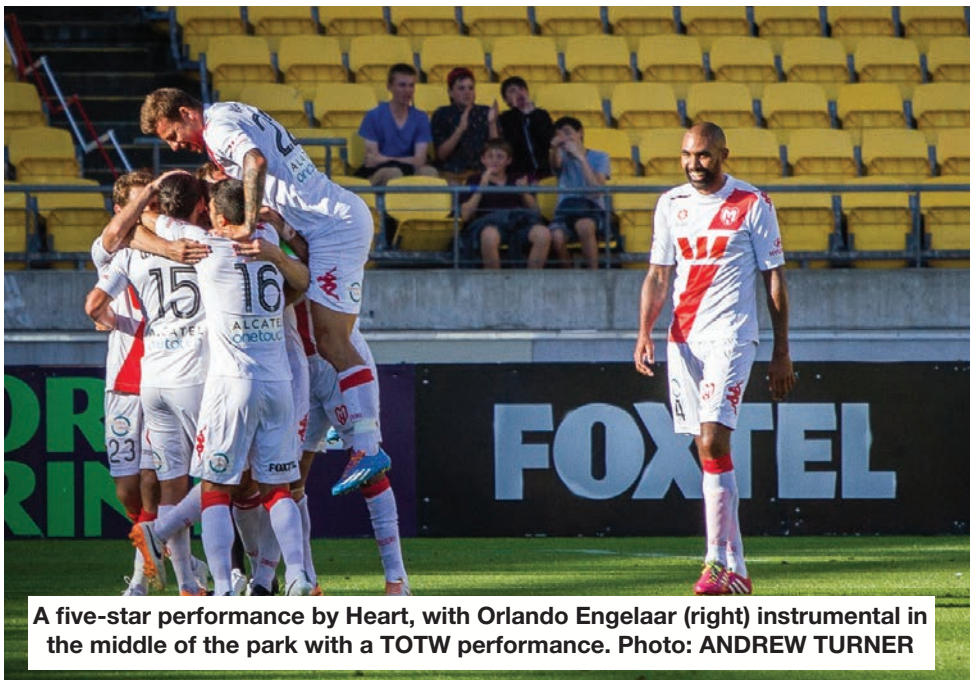
Brisbane Roar	2.25
Wanderers	4.50
Melbourne Victory	7.00
Adelaide United	9.00
Central Coast Mariners	9.00
Sydney FC	13.0
Wellington Phoenix	17.0
Newcastle Jets	17.0
Perth Glory	21.0
Melbourne Heart	34.0

TOP GOAL SCORERS

S. Huysegems	Wellington	9
A. Taggart	Newcastle	9
J. Troisi	Mel Victory	9
D. Williams	Mel Heart	9
B. Berisha	Brisbane	8
A. Del Piero	Sydney	7
R. Despotović	Sydney	6
Fábio Ferreira	Adelaide Utd	6
J. Neumann	Adelaide Utd	6
C. Hernandez	Wellington	5

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 19

Compiled by Nick Amies



A five-star performance by Heart, with Orlando Engelaar (right) instrumental in the middle of the park with a TOTW performance. Photo: ANDREW TURNER

As the conclusion of the season draws closer we see more and more teams pulling off unexpected results in their push for finals football. This week was no different, with the Jets completing a remarkable trio of victories against ladder leaders Brisbane Roar, while Melbourne Heart pulled off a miraculous 5-nil demolition of the Phoenix to keep their finals hopes alive. But who made the difference this weekend?

Mark Birighitti - Newcastle Jets

The Jets completed a miraculous whitewash of victories against the Roar on Sunday, eith Birighitti acting as one of the game's main protagonists. The young keeper pulled off several fine saves to deny the home side as the searched for a match to Adam Taggart's effort from the penalty spot.

Osama Malik - Adelaide United

Having been utilised as a ball-playing centre back earlier in the season by Josep Gombau, Malik has now shone as an overlapping full back on the right flank, no more so than on Friday night. The Mariners defence were unable to cope with Malik and Fabio Ferreira on the right flank as they attacked in tandem, with the right back also stifling his opposition in defence.

Rob Wielart - Melbourne Heart

The Dutch defender has played impressively under his compatriot John Van't Schip since he took control of the side and turned in one of his finest performances on Sunday. Resolute in defence, Wielart constantly denied the Phoenix attackers any chances to put themselves back in the game before delivering the knockout blow himself as his thunderous shot rebounded off Glen Moss for an own goal and his side's fourth of the game.

Sasa Ogenovski - Sydney FC

The Og-monster has added some much-needed steel to the Sky Blue defence alongside Nikola Petkovic and was in commanding form against the Glory. Aside from a well taken set piece to set up Rostyn Griffiths, Ogenovski more than ably dealt with any threat upon his goal as Sydney halted their slide with a much-needed win.

Sam Gallaway - Newcastle Jets

The most unrecognisable of the Newcastle defenders over the course of the season, Gallaway was certainly the most impressive on the pitch against the Roar on Sunday. The left back gave no opening down his corridor of the field as the home side piled on the pressure to try and earn a share of the points.

Isaias Sanchez - Adelaide United

The A-League's Xabi Alonso continued his sparkling run of form against the Mariners in adverse weather conditions, dictating play on the waterlogged Coopers Stadium pitch with the slightest ease. Gombau's linchpin continues to build his reputation as well as Adelaide's competition points total.

Orlando Engelaar - Melbourne Heart

The Heart marquee was keen to make up for lost time after missing last week's win over the Glory through suspension, opening the game's scoring after just nine minutes with a well-placed shot from the edge of the area. Engelaar provided a calming influence to the Heart midfield and along with Patrick Gerhardt successfully nullified Carlod Hernandez to dismantle the Phoenix offence.

Massimo Murdocca - Melbourne Heart

Since his move southwards from Brisbane Roar, Murdocca has struggle to find the same level of form he experienced alongside Matt McKay under Ange Postecoglu. However the diminutive midfielder was a dynamic presence at Westpac Stadium on Sunday, acting as a sublime link between the midfield and forward line, as wonderfully shown in his assist for David Williams' second goal of the match.

Marcelo Carrusca - Adelaide United

The Argentine continues to shine in the centre of the park for the Reds as they continue their charge up the table. He was on hand to score his side's opening goal, calmly side footing past Liam Reddy from inside the box. Carrusca then played a part in his side's game-clinching second, laying off the final pass before Fabio Ferreria slotted home.

Fabio Ferreria - Adelaide United

The tricky winger may have been withdrawn around the hour mark, but that was all the time he needed to successfully decimate the Central Coast defence on Friday night. Josh Rose was constantly made to look like an amateur under the pressure of Ferreria's darting runs and both goals of the game came from that side of the field. Carrusca was the beneficiary of Ferreria's link up with Malik on the right flank before the Argentine returned the favour to set up the winger for his side's game clinching second.

David Williams - Melbourne Heart

After starring off the bench in back to back weeks, Williams was unleashed from the start against the Phoenix to maximum effect. The opening goal was a fine lob of the onrushing Glen Moss, before a fine interchange with Massimo Murdocca created his second of the match. The number 10 finished off his hat trick in the second half with a wonderful long range effort from the outside of the area to conclude his side's first biggest win in their history

Photos:ADAM BUTLER

Catch LIVE updates of all the games and action pics on Goal! Weekly's facebook & Twitter pages

Champions No Match For Ever Climbing Reds

Adelaide United

2

Central Coast

0

Match Details

Adelaide United FC 2 (Carrusca 33', Ferreira 45+1')
Central Coast Mariners FC 0
Coopers Stadium, Adelaide
Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones
Attendance: 6,980

Central Coast Mariners FC: 12. Liam Reddy (Gk), 3. Joshua Rose, 5. Zachary Anderson, 8. Nick Montgomery (C), 11. Nick Fitzgerald, 15. Storm Roux, 17. Anthony Caceres (7. John Hutchinson 80'), 19. Matt Simon, 20. Bernie Ibini (9. Mitchell Duke 70'), 21. Mile Sterjovski (26. Kim Seung-Yong 57'), 25. Eddy Bosnar

Substitutes Not Used: 1. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 4. Marcel Seip
Yellow Cards: Rose, Roux
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United FC: 1. Eugene Galekovic (Gk), 3. Nigel Boogaard, 4. Jonathan Mckain, 5. Osama Malik, 8. Isaias, 9. Sergio Cirio, 10. Marcelo Carrusca (2. Michael Marrone 80'), 11. Bruce Djite 14. Cameron Watson, 18. Michael Zullo, 22. Fabio Ferreira (17. Awer Mabil 73')

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Paul Izzo (Gk), 23. Jordan Elsey
Yellow Cards: Zullo, Ferreira
Red Cards: Nil

By Matt Mays

Adelaide United continued their scintillating form and catapulted themselves into third place in the A-League standings as they eased past current champions Central Coast on Friday night.

On a pitch that thought many wouldn't be deemed good enough to play on before kick off, the Reds snapped home twice in the first half. Currusca firstly slotting home then assisting Ferreira after a smart counter attack.

The game was almost a training session for Adelaide. Sharp passing, lots of movement and patient build up play. Bruce Djite caused havoc for the Mariners centre backs in his centennial A-League game, while Currusca yet again shone and ran the show from the first whistle to the last.

It was a shame that only 6980 people witnessed one of Adelaide's most professional performances of the season. The lowest attendance of the year cause by bad weather in Adelaide circulating rumours on social media that the match would be postponed. That said, the ground staff at Cooper's Stadium did a monumental job, and the game went ahead. The Mariners wished it hadn't.

Although the visitors had the first real chance of the game, Having recently returned from his spell in Asia. Bernie Ibini found himself through on goal but blazed his shot high and wide.

Fabio Ferriera looked like he had a point to prove today, and the wet surface almost helped him in his stride, causing the full backs problems. But it was Djite who almost broke the deadlock for the home side but his deflected effort grazed the roof of the net, just after the seventeenth minute.

But it was just past the half an hour mark when Adelaide sparked the game to life.

Ferriera, causing confusion once more on the left, produced an inch perfect pass inside to Malik. His shot come cross landed nicely on the feet of Currusca. The Argentine made time stand still, steadied himself and calmly placed into the corner and sent a wet Cooper's Stadium into raptures.

1-0 Carrusca brings fans at Coopers Stadium to their feet, after keeping his composure in the box.

The Mariners, who were much under the pump in the first half, almost levelled though as Matthew Simon smashed the woodwork.

The rare chance that went begging for the champions proved costly. Adelaide United's deadly counter attacking force showed it's capabilities once again and in the blink of an eye it was two-nil.

The Reds robbed the ball from the visitors on the halfway line and run at goal, producing one-touch passing before finally Currusca fed Ferreira the chance to score on a plate. The Portuguese forced the ball under Liam Reddy and the match was effectively over.

Ferreira then picked up a needless caution for lifting his shirt during the celebrations. He didn't care and was now Adelaide's joint highest scorer for the year.

The second half usually brings a more conservative approach. On previous occasions Gombau's side are content with the lead they have at the break. Not today. They wanted to make a statement.

Wave after wave of attack came and Adelaide where their own downfall. It was one way traffic, although Eugene Galekovic was called into action from Ibini again on fifty minutes but the Socceroo palmed away smartly to safety.

How Adelaide didn't score again was a mystery. There was even a point in the game where the home side had 90% of the possession. Currusca, Cirio and Ferriera where well and truly making a mockery of the visitors, leaving Gombau grinning from ear to ear on a wet sideline.

Substiture Awer Mabil would have gotten onto the scoresheet late on with a delightful lob over the keep but the linesman incorrectly ruled the strike out for offside.

But the damage was well and truly done in the first half. Adelaide missed the chance to really make a strong statement and bury the Mariners but a win is a win. The win launches the Reds into third spot, just four points of Western Sydney Wanders in second spot which would qualify a home prelim final.

Man of the match - For the UPTEENTH game in a row, for me Currusca deserves the accolade again. The Argentine is simply playing out his skin right now, and if Adelaide United can secure his services on the pitch with a new contract this week, it will be one of the signings of the season. With his dazing skills on and off the ball, and his lethal finishing, Marcelo has been one of the most important cogs in the well oiled Adelaide machine since round 9 of the season, which has seen his side move from 9th to 3rd spot.

Match Stats		
15	Tackles	16
19	Total Shots	11
554	Total Passes	303
63.2%	Possession	36.8%
5	Corners	5
3	Offsides	1
19	Fouls committed	22

Man of the Match
Carrusca (AUFC)

Jeronimo Neauman is foiled by Liam Reddy as the Mariners survive another attack on goals.

2-0 Fabio Farreira doubles the lead and celebrates in 'Ravanelli' style.

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Photos: ALI ERHAN

Sky Blues ease the pressure... for now

Sydney FC 2

Perth Glory 1

Match Details

Sydney FC 2 (Ranko Despotovic 17', Terry Antonis 65')
Perth Glory 1 (Rostyn Griffiths 67')
Allianz Stadium
Crowd: 11, 160
Referee: Chris Beath

Sydney FC: 20. Vedran Janjetovic (Gk), 4. Ranko Despotovic (14. Mitch Mallia 87'), 5. Matt Jurman, 6. Nikola Petkovic, 9. Corey Gameiro (29. Alec Urosevski 74'), 10. Alessandro Del Piero (C), 13. Sasa Ognenovski, 17. Terry Antonis, 21. Milos Dimitrijevic (24. Hagi Gligor 37'), 22. Ali Abbas, 34 Aaron Calver.

Substitutes Not Used: 1 Ivan Necevski (Gk), 36. Themba Muata-Marlow.
Yellow Card: Aaron Calver 51'
Red Card: Aaron Calver 89'

Perth Glory: 1. Daniel Vukovic (Gk), 5. Rostyn Griffiths(7. Jacob Burns 68'), 8. Nebojsa Marinkovic, 9. Shane Smeltz, 14. Steven Mcgarry, 16. Sidnei Sciola Moraes, 19. Joshua Risdon (10. Jamie Mclaren 92'), 23. Michael Thwaite, 25. Riley Woodcock, 28. Darvydas Sernas (17. Chris Harold 60'), 36. William Gallas.

Substitutes Not Used: 18. Jack Duncan(Gk), 2. Jack Clisby.
Yellow Cards: Rostyn Griffiths 8', Michael Thwaite 35

By Bryson Ferreira

Sydney FC remained consistently inconsistent on the weekend by downing a Perth Glory side that haven't won since the 10th January.

On paper this was a match-up between two out-of-form teams.

Sydney FC were suffering through a much-publicised drought having secured just one win from their past eight outings, leading to a tough week for coach Frank Farina and the club.

Farina made three changes to the starting squad from last week, handing debuts to Socceroo's defender Sasa Ognenovski and youth team player Aaron Calver, as well as the welcome return of Terry Antonis for the first time this season.

The fixture opened with a tense ten minutes as both sides struggled to gain any meaningful possession as they attempted to blow out the cobwebs from some recent poor performances.

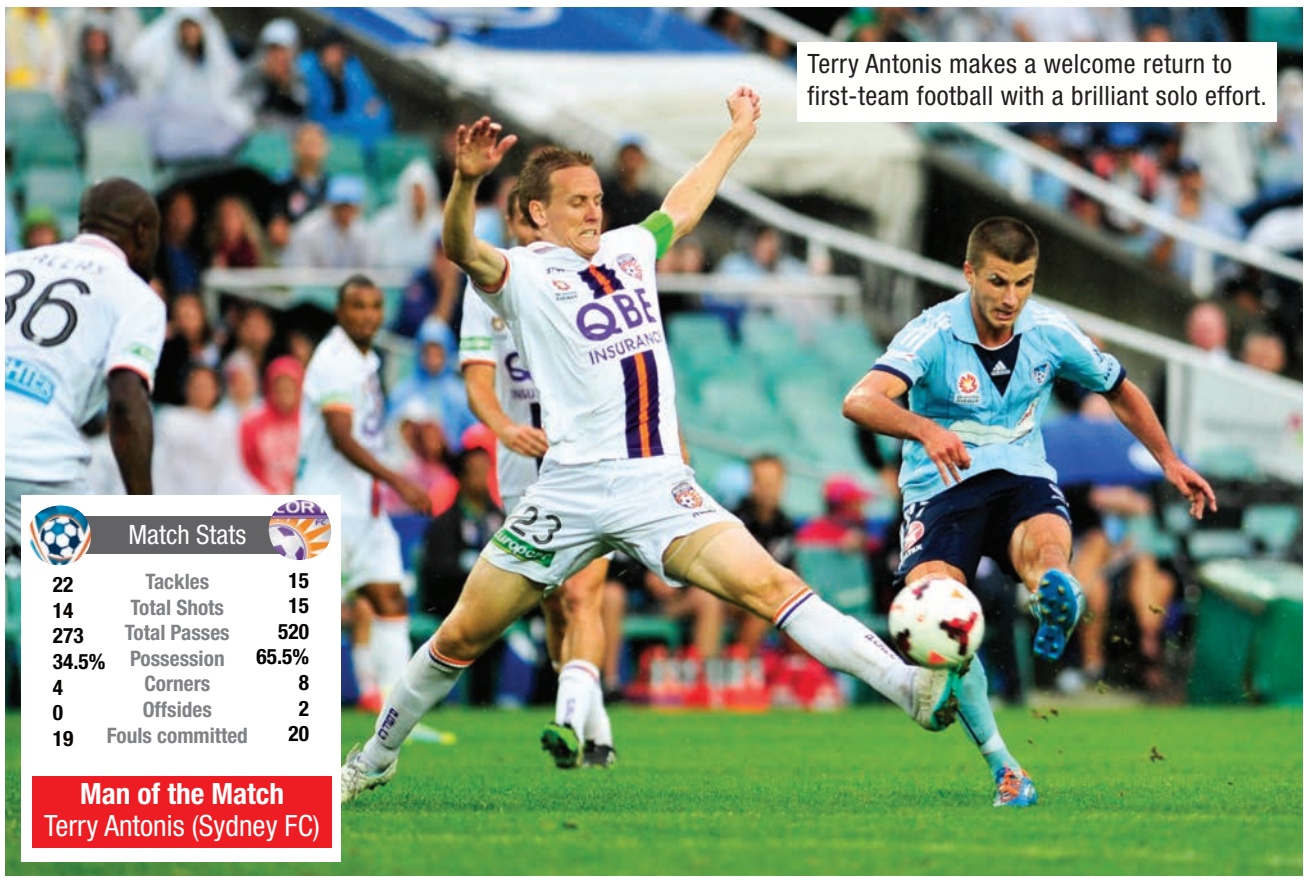
After the initial stalemate, Sydney FC using the width of the pitch, started to find traction going forward, something that has certainly eluded them in recent weeks.

After starring in his first few games at the club, Ranko Despotovic was up to his old tricks again to give the Sky Blues the lead in the 17th minute.

After pressing caused a turnover, Del Piero stormed through the heart of the Perth midfield and dinked a ball towards Despotovic, who with his first touch pushed it past Vukovic and into the back of the net.

With 10 minutes remaining in the half Frank Farina was forced into an early change with Dimitrijevic being replaced by Gligor due to a quad complaint.

From that point on the Glory began to come back into the game, with Del Piero clearing the ball off the line twice in a matter of minutes.



Terry Antonis makes a welcome return to first-team football with a brilliant solo effort.

Match Stats		
22	Tackles	15
14	Total Shots	15
273	Total Passes	520
34.5%	Possession	65.5%
4	Corners	8
0	Offsides	2
19	Fouls committed	20

Man of the Match
Terry Antonis (Sydney FC)

The Sky Blues should have doubled the lead through Gameiro early in the second half.

The pacey striker was found by a much-improved Ali Abbas and curled a shot on target, only to see his effort inadvertently blocked by Despotovic.

In the 64th minute the lead finally doubled however, as Terry Antonis marked his return in stunning fashion.

Picking the ball up near the right hand touchline, Antonis boldly surged past four Glory defenders via a slalom run before bending his shot past a helpless Vukovic.

That lead however, only lasted 3 minutes.

Presented with a set-piece from the wide left, Nebojsa Marinkovic delivered an inviting cross that Rostyn Griffiths attacked and slammed home with a well placed head.

The half-chances continued at either end, notably Despotovic seemed set to extend the margin following a goalmouth scramble, but Vukovic was alert to the danger with a brave smoother.

Young Sydney defender Aaron Calver was sent off in the dying minutes for a second caution but the home side hung on for three crucial points.

The win was an obvious relief to the players and fans, but most of all under pressure manager, Frank Farina, after what had been a tumultuous week to say the least.

The question now will be whether Frank and his men can continue winning between now and the end of the season, and also whether good results will make any difference to who will be in the coaches box next year.

There were still cries of protest amongst members of the Cove, amidst rumours that the great man Alessandro Del Piero may hang up the boots and take over as manager next season.

For Frank and his team however, it's the old 'one-week at a time' cliché, as they try and remain in the top-six and challenge for the title.

It's hard not to feel sorry for the embattled coach however, who seems to have the axe over his head, despite what might happen over the next 2 months.

Sydney FC take on Newcastle on the weekend at Hunter Stadium, who are coming off a big win over table-toppers Brisbane Roar last weekend.

For Frank and his player's sake, hopefully they can string another two away wins together before they return to their recently hostile home ground, Allianz Stadium.

Perth Glory's Darvydas Sernas closes in on Alessandro Del Piero

Michael Thwaite (Glory) tries to stand his ground

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Jets Hoodoo Continues As Taggart Tames Roar

Brisbane Roar 0

Newcastle Jets 1

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 0
Newcastle Jets 1 (Adam Taggart 57(P)')
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Referee: Takuto Okabe (Japan)
Crowd: 13,066

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matthew Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Steven Lustica (10. Henrique 64'), 13. Jade North, 14. Diogo Ferreira (16. Jean Carlos Solorzano 64'), 18. Luke Brattan, 22. Thomas Broich, 23. Dimitri Petratos (17. Matthew Mckay 76')

Substitutes Not Used: 15. James Donachie, 20. Matthew Acton
Yellow Cards: Shane Stefanutto 58'
Red Cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets: 1. Mark Birighitti (Gk), 4. Kew Jaliens, 6. Zenon Caravella, 8. Ruben Zadkovich (C), 9. Emile Heskey (13. Joey Gibbs 77'), 11. Craig Goodwin (16. Jacob Pepper 72'), 12. Connor Chapman, 15. Josh Brillante, 17. James Virgili (24. Mitchell Oxborrow 86'), 21. Sam Gallaway, 22. Adam Taggart

Substitutes Not Used: 19. Michael Bridges, 20. Ben Kennedy (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Josh Mitchell 22', Kew Jaliens 52'
Red Cards: Nil

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane Roar's Newcastle Jets hoodoo continued on Sunday as they went down 1-0 to the Jets at Suncorp Stadium. An Adam Taggart second-half penalty was enough to secure the visitors the three points and complete a season sweep over the more fancied Brisbane.

This has long been an unhappy fixture for Brisbane Roar, the first A-League team to reach one hundred wins has only managed to emerge the victor twice in the fifteen occasions that they've hosted the Jets.

The match began in typical fashion, Newcastle content to sit deep and cede possession to their opponents. That's not to say the Jets were playing for anything but a win, their 2-0 victory in this same fixture earlier in the season was achieved with only 38% possession.

Mark Birighitti received his first test in the 15th minute, a low cross from Ivan Franjic found Berisha, the Roar striker attemped to caress the ball into the right hand corner of the net but the Jets keeper was up well to save.

Berisha then should have given his side the lead only two minutes later but a late lunge wasn't enough for him to get a touch on a cross from Broich on the left that invited him to put the ball in the net from only eight-yards out.

Newcastle enjoyed a good period midway through the half, Brisbane's high defensive line lead to Michael Theo needing to make good saves from Adam Taggart and Josh Brillante.

The momentum then shifted again late in the half, Brisbane forced three corners from Newcastle as the whistle approached but the Jets defence held strong and the two sides left the pitch with the score at 0-0.

Dimitri Petratos and Luke Brattan both forced saves from Birighitti in the opening ten minutes of the second half as Brisbane looked like putting in the kind of Jekyll and Hyde performance that has enabled them to snatch a win this season when a draw or loss seemed far more likely.

Steve Lustica then had an excellent opportunity in the 57th minute, a low cross from Broich rebounded to the feet of the Adelaide United defector but his resultant effort was too close to Birighitti and was well saved.

That wasted opportunity would prove costly as Newcastle wasted no time in breaking up field on the counter.

Shane Stefanutto, looking every bit of his thirty-four years, was unable to keep pace with James Virgili and pulled down the Jets winger, attempting to stop him entering the Roar penalty area. Replays suggested that the offence was outside the area but it didn't matter as match referee Takuto Akabe pointed to the spot

Adam Taggart stepped up to the spot and calmly slotted home the penalty, leaving Suncorp Stadium silent at the prospect of yet another home loss to Newcastle.

Virgilli then had a fabulous opportunity to double the lead in the 63rd minute, only to pull his shot wide of the far post when one-on-one with Theo and with Taggart to his left screaming for a square ball.

Mike Mulvey had seen enough by this point and introduced Henrique and Jean Carlos Solorzano into the fray in an effort to kick-start Brisbane's attacking game.

A deft team move from Brisbane in the 81st minute allowed Brattan to play in Henrique with a lovely pass, but the Brazilian's effort ricocheted off the post much to the dismay of the home crowd.

Brisbane dominated the ball in the latter stages but their struggles in the final third continued, the Roar attack unable to forge any opportunities when faced with a Newcastle defence superbly marshalled by Kew Jaliens and Josh Mitchell.

After the match Brisbane's manager Mike Mulvey's frustration with the result was plain to see.

"Not good enough at all," he said when asked of his side's performance.

"If we're supposed to be a team that's champions in waiting, then we need to have a good long look at ourselves.

"I take full responsibility. I'm the person that puts the team on the park, chooses the tactics, makes the substitutions; so today is my full responsibility."

"But what I'll promise to Brisbane Roar fans is that I'll fix it."

Match Stats		
13	Tackles	22
15	Total Shots	10
632	Total Passes	249
71.5%	Possession	28.5%
11	Corners	5
2	Offsides	1
6	Fouls committed	16

Man of the Match
James Virgili (Newcastle)

The Jets are all smiles after Adam Taggart converts his penalty, and a for the third time this season the highly-fancied Roar are grounded by the Jets.

Goalmouth action aplenty as Matt Smith (Roar) heads clear the danger in front of Adam Taggart (Jets)

Zenon Caravella (Jets) tries to hold off Thomas Broich (Roar)

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Photos: PETER MCDONALD

High fives for Heart in record-breaking weekend

Wellington Phoenix

0

Melbourne Heart

5

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 0
Melbourne Heart 5
(Engelaar 9', Williams 19', 51', 63', Wielaert 54')
Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Ht: 0-2
Referee: Jarred Gillett
Attendance: 9,767

Wellington Phoenix: 1. Glen Moss, 2. Manny Muscat, 5. Michael Boxall, 9. Kenny Cunningham (12. Tyler Boy 59'), 10. Stein Huysegems, 11. Jeremy Brockie, 15. Jason Hicks (23. Matthew Ridenton 46'), 17. Vince Lia, 18. Ben Sigmund, 21. Carlos Hernandez, 22. Andrew Durante

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Lewis Italiano (Gk), 3. Reece Caira, 24. Hamish Watson
Yellow Cards: Lia 61'
Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Heart Fc: 1. Andrew Redmayne (Gk), 3. Robbie Wielaert (C), 4. Orlando Engelaar, 6. Patrick Gerhardt (22. Nicholas Kalmar 57'), 7. Iain Ramsay (19. Benjamin Garuccio 69'), 8. Massimo Murdocca (21. Stefan Mauk 73'), 15. David Williams, 16. Aziz Behich, 17. Jason Hoffman, 23. Mate Dugandzic, 24. Patrick Kisnorbo

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Tando Velaphi (Gk), 27. Luke O'Dea
Yellow Cards: Weilaert 29', Hoffman 32', Gerhardt 45'
Red Cards: Nil

After 22 games of trying, Melbourne Heart finally deliver the away day goods with a an epic win in New Zealand. Photo: ANDREW TURNER

Match Stats

Wellington		Melbourne Heart
10	Tackles	23
8	Total Shots	19
453	Total Passes	461
49.1%	Possession	50.9%
4	Corners	6
1	Offsides	2
16	Fouls committed	14

Man of the Match
David Williams (Heart)

By Joe Gallagher in NZ

Thumped, thrashed, humiliated, hammered. The thesaurus was out on Sunday night but scoreboard needed no further description.

Melbourne Heart handed out a footballing lesson in New Zealand to emphatically end a near-two dozen game winless run away from home.

It was some contrast to the last time the Phoenix played in Wellington, in which they put the Heart's cross-town rivals to the sword by the same scoreline.

It wasn't shirts off but ironic cheers by the Yellow Fever for every completed pass in the final ten minutes. Ernie Merrick's side were booed by a crowd of 10,000 after the club's worst ever home loss.

But Heart's revival under John van't Schip continues, the Victorians now on a three-match winning streak which has seen them go unbeaten in their last five.

A side who were without a win when van't Schip took over in December have now only lost once under his leadership.

While they remain rooted to the bottom of the ladder, the idea of post-season football is not as improbable as it once was.

Merrick made four changes to the side which upset Newcastle Jets a week ago, bringing in Michael Boxall, Kenny Cunningham, Jason Hicks and Jeremy Brockie.

Van't Schip welcomed back Orlando Engelaar from suspension and made room in his starting 11 for Patrick Gerhardt in place of the injured Harry Kewell.

He also rewarded David Williams for two match-winning performances off the bench with a starting berth; what a decision that proved to be.

The striker had a hat-trick after only an hour; his first a spectacular 30-metre lob over a curiously-placed Glen Moss before grabbing a brace within minutes of the restart, exchanging a neat one-two with Massimo Murdocca following an error by the half-time substitute Matthew Ridenton.

But while the Phoenix might have rued key mistakes for Williams' first two, there was nothing that could have stopped the goal which scored Heart's first hat-trick.

Collecting a corner, the 25-year-old took a touch before curling around Moss at the far post to score his ninth goal of the season, drawing him level atop the golden boot standings.

One of those in his company is Stein Huysegems, who has been in a rich vein of form of late. But the Belgian was largely anonymous as Wellington perhaps took the club's annual charity fixture too literally, coughing up the ball with alarming regularity and reverting to long-ball tactics which served them so poorly last term.

Their rare moments of inspiration came from Carlos Hernandez, though largely tame efforts from distance from the set piece.

In truth, Heart goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne might have thought he was on holiday in a summery Wellington.

The home side were clearly guilty of complacency after losing just one of their last eight before being brought back to earth by van't Schip's resurgent side.

The imposing Engelaar made his presence felt before opening the scoring after eight minutes. Mate Dugandzic's shot was blocked but the Dutchman's follow-up was a bullet, flying into the back of the net before Moss could even react.

Two goals from Williams later and Moss' torrid day at the office was capped off; Rob Wielaert's rocket off a shot cannoned back off the cross-bar but bounced back into the All White's net courtesy of Moss' back.

The only positive for the Phoenix stopper is that the club will soon be rid of one of the ugliest goalkeeping shirts in history when it is auctioned off to raise money for charity.

From then it was all about damage limitation for the Phoenix and though Williams rounded off the scoring at five, Merrick will know that it could have been much worse.

The likes of Dugandzic, Williams and Iain Ramsay ran riot throughout, frequently catching Wellington on the break and might easily have scored plenty of goals less spectacular than the five they did.

Williams blazed over when it might have been easier to hit the target, Ramsay forced Moss into a smart save and the goalkeeper tipped a long-range effort from Stefan Mauk over the bar.

In the end, though, five will be more than enough for van't Schip. His side remain at long odds to qualify for the playoffs (seven points for sixth-placed Sydney FC) but are becoming more of a threat with every passing week.

There will be no shortage of confidence ahead of a visit to the league-leading Brisbane Roar on the weekend.

Wellington fell out of the top six but face an important trip to play the fifth-placed Central Coast Mariners on Friday night.

Merrick's bid to qualify for the post-season took a blow last week with news they will be without midfielder Albert Riera for the remainder of the campaign.

Nick Kalmar does his impression of the Winter Olympics, as he slalems with the ball.

Patrick Kisnorbo keeps in-form striker Stein Huysegems in check

Victory through to ACL group stages

Melbourne Victory 2

Muangthong Utd (Thai) 1

Match Details

Melbourne Victory (Aus) 1
(Leigh Broxham 83', James Troisi 58')
Muangthong United (Tha) 1
(Mario Durovski 22')
Kardinia Park, Melbourne
Crowd: 8,304

Melbourne Victory:
1.Nathan Coe, 2.Pablo Contreras, 3.Adama Traore, 4.Nicholas Ansell, 5 Mark Milligan (C), 6.Leigh Broxham, 9.Kosta Barbarouses (13.Andrew Nabbout 65'), 10.Archie Thompson, 14.James Troisi, 21.Tomas Rogic, 24.Scott Galloway

Yellow Cards: Ansell 17', Thompson 90+6".
Red Cards: None

Muangthong United
39.Visanusak Kaewruang, 3.Tossapol Lated, 4.Piyaphon Buntao, 7.Datsakorn Thonglao (C), 10.Teerasil DangdA, 19.Inyin Anuwat (9.Jay Bothroyd 54'), 20.Mario Durovski (11.Wuttichai Tatong 81'), 23.Milan Bubalo, 25.Thitiphan Puangjan, 28.Suriya Singmui, 36.Sarawut Masuk

Yellow Cards: Piyaphon Buntao 45+1', Mario Durovski 69', Thitiphan Puangjan 7'.
Red Cards: Datsakorn Thonglao (C) 90+4'.

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Victory qualified for the group stage of the 2014 Asian Champions League with a hard-fought two-one win over Muangthong United from Thailand at Kardinia Park in Geelong in front of 8,304 fans. It was an open game with both teams creating a missing a host of opportunities. Both keepers pulled a string of excellent saves, though both would rue the goals that beat them.

Victory started as if it would steamroller its way to a result. James Troisi got clear down the left in the second minute but his cross was just too high for the leaping Kosta Barbarouses at the back post. Skipper Mark Milligan coming back after leg surgery was taken down in a severe tackle on the edge of the home penalty area, and was somewhat proppy for a while thereafter and mightily surprised that no free kick was given. Barbarouses was tripped on his next excursion into the final third, but the free kick had no result. Nick Ansell was booked for an offence in midfield, so both sides were taking things seriously.

The visitor won their first corner kick after 21 minutes. Macedonian winger Mario Gjurovski sent an inswinger towards the near post and Piyathon Buntao jumped in front of Scott Galloway who was unsighted on the near post. So he hardly got off the ground and being small the ball passed directly over him and into the net with Nathan Coe stranded in the middle of his goal. It was a soft one to lose.

Coe made amends with a strong save when Inyin Anuwat's deflected shot might well have added to the visitor's advantage. He also denied Milan Bubalo when the Serbian striker broke through the Victory defence.

The Japanese referee Masaaki Toma added one minute to the first half and Archie Thompsons was brought down in the area for a penalty kick. The referee drew a red card but then replaced it with a yellow for Pyathon Buntao. Mark Milligan's penalty was saved near his left hand post by the visiting keeper, Visanusak Kaewruang.

Victory began the second half chasing parity but Coe had to bring off another critical save to deny Teerasill Dangda who was clear through on goal. Tom Rogic powered a shot just over the bar at the other end, and then Coe was back in action to block Bubalo's shot once again. Finally Victory managed to turn its good midfield play into an incisive move. Fifty-eight minutes had passed when lovely sweeping series of passes found Scott Galloway overlapping on the right. He lifted the ball into the space in front of the keeper for James Troisi to head the equaliser.

The momentum was now with the home team but Muangthong brought on Jay Boothroyd in attack showing that they had no intention of settling for a draw, though they tried to break up the Victory rhythm by delaying play. It looked as if extra-time was going to be needed when Victory got its second goal.

Archie Thompson was through on the left but the keeper saved at the expense of a corner. When that came over Mark Milligan powered in a header but the keeper saved that too. The second corner was knocked back in the direction of midfielder Leigh Broxham who thrashed it goalwards. Whether it would have beaten the keeper is debatable but defender Thitipan Puangchan threw himself at the ball and deflected it past his keeper for a goal which takes Victory to the champions league. In injury time the Muangthong skipper Datsakorn Thonglao clashed with the Victory's second scorer, Broxham, and was sent off by the referee.

Melbourne Victory rejoice after Leigh Broxham comes to the rescue with a late winner to guarantee ACL qualification.

The Aussie Mission

Wed Feb 25
FC Seoul v Mariners
9.30 pm Fox 2

Thu Feb 26
Wanderers v Ulsan Hyundai
KO 7.30 pm Fox 2

Thu Feb 26
Guangzhou Evergrande v Melbourne Victory
KO 11.00 pm Fox 2
All times are AEDT

The Play-Off Ties

Melb Victory 2 - 1 Muang Thong United
Beijing Guoan 4 - 0 Chonburi
Lekhwiya 4 - 1 Al Kuwait
El Jaish 3 - 0 Al Qadsia

Winners qualify for group stage.

The Groups

Group A
Esteghlal (Irn)
Al Rayyan (Qat)
Al Jazira (Uae)
Al Shabab (Ksa

Group B
Al Fateh (Ksa)
Foolad Khouzestan (Irn)
El Jaish (Qat)
Bunyodkor (Uzb)

Group C
Al Ain (Uae)
Al Ittihad (Ksa)
Tractorsazi Tabriz (Irn)
Lekhwiya (Qat)

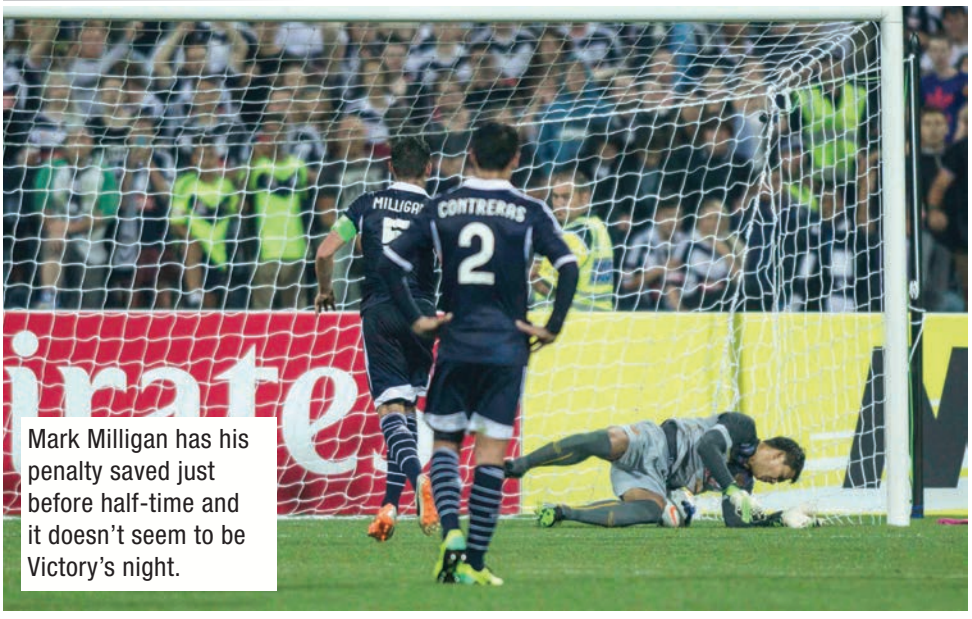
Group D
Al Sadd (Qat)
Al Ahli (Uae)
Al Hilal (Ksa)
Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan (Irn)

Group E
Pohang Steelers (Kor)
Buriram United (Tha)
Shandong Luneng FC (Chn)
Cerezo Osaka (Jpn)

Group F
Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Jpn)
Central Coast Mariners (Aus)
Fc Seoul (Kor)
Beijing Guoan (Chn)

Group G
Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn)
Yokohama F Marinos (Jpn)
Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors (Kor)
Melbourne Victory (Aus)

Group H
Western Sydney Wanderers (Aus)
Guizhou Renhe (Chn)
Kawasaki Frontale (Jpn)
Ulsan Hyundai (Kor)



Mark Milligan has his penalty saved just before half-time and it doesn't seem to be Victory's night.

Captains collide: Muangthong's Thonglao lashes out at Leigh Broxham before receiving his marching orders.

CC Mariners v Wellington Phoenix — Fri Feb 21 Bluetongue Stdm 7:30 PM

Mariners Line Up

1.Justin PASFIELD (Gk)
4.Marcel SEIP
5.Zachary ANDERSON
7.John HUTCHINSON (C)
8.Nick MONTGOMERY
9.Mitchell DUKE
12.Liam REDDY (Gk)
15.Storm ROUX
17.Anthony CACERES
20.Bernie IBINI
21.Mile STERJOVSKI
22.Tom SLATER
25.Eddy BOSNAR
26.Kim Seung-yong
27.Isaka CERNAK
28.Glen TRIFIRO
29.Matt SIM
One to be omitted

Ins: 22.Tom SLATER (promoted) , 27.Isaka CERNAK (promoted) , 28.Glen TRIFIRO, 29.Matt SIM (promoted)

Outs: 3.Joshua ROSE (suspended – 1 week), 11.Nick FITZGERALD (suspended – 1 week), 19.Matt Simon (suspended – 1 week)

Unavailable10.Marcos FLORES (knee – season), 14.Michael MCGLINCHEY (on loan – Vegalta Sendai), 18.Michael NEILL (knee – season), 23.Adam KWASNIK (knee – season)

Transfers Tear Us Apart… Again

Adrian Deans

The Mariners have not covered themselves with glory since the January transfer window. Although, in dog breeding terms… at least they haven't been covered by Glory.

Not for a few weeks yet.

The Mariners – rebuilt again and again after off-season and January transfers – are finally showing signs of fallibility. Like Marge Simpson's Chanel suit, you can only rearrange the fabric so many times before the whole thing falls apart

This week brings no respite. After three losses in a row, the five new players in the Mariners' fold are still coming to grips with the system, and so is the coach. Eddie Bosnar (he of the exceedingly violent set pieces) is one player looking more or less at home already, but Kim Seung Jong is still finding his feet.

With the usual injury and suspension problems (Josh Rose is suspended, as is Brent Griffiths who was red carded last weekend in the NYL) there's a strong chance that Matthew Sim will make his debut this weekend. Sim's is another great story out of the Mile Jedinak school. A state-leaguer in his mid-twenties, he could have been forgiven for thinking his A-League window had closed. He may get a chance this weekend to play in his favourite position – left back – upon which Josh Rose has had a mortgage in the last few years. But his form hasn't been great in the last few games and just maybe the suspension spares him the embarrassment of being dropped. It will be fascinating to see which way Mossy goes next week if Sims does well.

Up against the Mariners are the Wellington Phoenix, whose record against the Mariners is poor, but until last week they were one of the form teams in the league. They'll be desperate to get their campaign back on track after that major lapse (thrashed five nil by the Heart, at home) but they don't travel well.

There is the added incentive of a place in the six, at least temporarily, if they can get the chocolates, and I expect Ernie Merrick's men to be really up for this game.

If the Mariners are to prevail, Ibini and Simon will have to have huge games. I'm also keen to see Kim really start to find his feet in Australian football. His reputation in Korea suggests he will certainly be a success but now would be a good time to start if he's going to save the Mariners' season.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets and more recently Straight Jacket – published by High Horse Books and available in all good book stores. www.adriandeans.com

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Mariners 2.12 Draw 3.50 Phoenix 3.60	Played 20 Mariners 11 Phoenix 5 Drawn 4

Referee: Alan Milliner

TV broadcast: 6.30pm (AEDT) Live coverage on FOX Sports 1HD, SBS 2 and on Sky Sport 2 (New Zealand). Radio Broadcast: 92.5 ABC Central Coast, Online/Mobile A-league live phone app. SBS Radio. Coast FM (Central Coast).

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #CCMvWEL

Kiss of Death
Mariners 2-1 Phoenix

Phoenix Line Up

1.Glen MOSS (gk)
2.Manny MUSCAT
3.Reece CAIRA
5.Michael BOXALL
6.Josh BRINDELL-SOUTH
9.Kenny CUNNINGHAM
10.Stein HUYSEGEMS
11.Jeremy BROCKIE
12.Tyler BOYD
15.Jason HICKS
17.Vince LIA
18.Ben SIGMUND
19.Hamish WATSON
20.Lewis ITALIANO (gk)
21.Carlos HERNANDEZ
22.Andrew DURANTE (c)
23.Matthew RIDENTON
24.Roy KRISHNA.
two to be omitted

In: 6.Josh BRINDELL-SOUTH (promoted), 24.Roy KRISHNA (returns from injury)..

Out: Nil.

Unavailable: 7.Leo Bertos (groin injury 2-3 weeks), 8.Paul Ifill (ruptured Achilles, season), 13.Albert Riera (groin injury 4-5 weeks), 16.Louis Fenton (shoulder injury, season).

Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC — Sat Feb 22 Hunter Stadium 5:30 PM

Jets Line Up

1. Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
3. Taylor REGAN
6. Zenon CARAVELLA
7. Andrew HOOLE
8. Ruben ZADKOVICH (c)
9. Emile HESKEY
11. Craig GOODWIN
13. Joey GIBBS
14.Josh MITCHELL
15. Josh BRILLANTE
17. James VIRGILI
19. Michael BRIDGES
21. Sam GALLAWAY
20. Ben KENNEDY (gk)
22. Adam TAGGART
23. David CARNEY
24. Mitch OXBORROW
29. Joel GRIFFITHS.
Two to be omitted

Ins: 3.Taylor REGAN (returns from injury), 7.Andrew HOOLE (returns from suspension), 23.David CARNEY (promoted), 29.Joel Griffiths (returns from suspension).

Outs: 4.Kew JALIENS (suspended – one week), 18.Jacob PEPPER (knee injury – short term).

Unavailable: 2.Scott NEVILLE (knee injury – long term) 5.Ben KANTAROVSKI (knee – short term), 25.Mitch COOPER (knee injury – long term), 27.Nick WARD (knee injury – short term).

Jets face Sydney in crucial top six shootout

Shaun Dyas

Newcastle Jets host Sydney FC this Saturday afternoon in what is yet another crucial contest in the battle for places in the A-League top six.

The Jets will go into the match buoyed by one of their most impressive results of the season, where they snapped an eight match winless run in defeating Brisbane Roar 1-0 at Suncorp Stadium.

Sydney head into the fixture with the club in turmoil, despite defeating Perth Glory 2-1 last weekend at Allianz stadium.

The Sky Blues have been through the wringer in the past couple of weeks with a mass protest during the Adelaide match at home which they lost 3-0.

Former Jets men and now Sydney FC players Nick Carle and Matt Thompson were banished from training in the aftermath and were only reintroduced with the intervention of the PFA.

Sydney boss Frank Farina continues to find himself under severe pressure, with the majority of the clubs fan base asking for his removal as manager of the side.

One of the main reasons is the Sky Blues inconsistent form which has them clinging to a position in and around the top six.

Within the space of a month, they have gone from routing the Victory 5-0 in Melbourne to succumbing meekly at home in the reds match and it is near impossible predicting which Sky Blues outfit will turn up at Hunter Stadium.

They will utilise their usual game plan of sitting deeper and inviting the Jets on before hoping to punish the Jets on the break, which has led to their two victories over Newcastle this season.

It will be interesting to see how the Jets approach this match as they have undoubtedly changed their system and style since Clayton Zane took over the reins from the now academy director of the emerging Jets program, Gary Van Egmond.

Under Van Egmond, the Jets attempted to dominate possession and territory with a high pressing game that allowed Sydney to turn the ball over in midfield and allow Sydney's stars such as Del Piero to strike in transition.

Under Zane's tutelage, the Jets are now a more compact, less aggressive unit when pressing, opting instead to allow teams to come onto them and using the speed of the likes of Adam Taggart, Josh Brillante and others on the counter attack.

The onus though this week will be on the home side to try and get on the front foot and dictate the game in front of their home fans and this has often been to the detriment of the home side.

Newcastle have not managed to win at home since before Christmas and Sydney will surely fancy their chances of beating the Jets for the third time this season, just as the Jets managed to achieve against the Roar last weekend.

One word that has been constantly repeated out of the Jets camp this week is confidence and how it has been restored after last week's win.

This week they will have the opportunity to prove that their confidence has been restored.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Jets 2.17 Draw 3.40 Sydney FC 3.40	Played 28 Jets 6 Sydney FC 15 Drawn 7

Referee: Strebre Delovski

TV Broadcast: 5.00pm (AEDT) Live and exclusive broadcast on FOX Sports 1HD and Sky Sport 2 (New Zealand).

Radio Broadcast: 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local radio NSW, 1233 ABC Newcastle, Grandstand Digital Online/Mobile A-league live phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #NEWvSYD

Kiss of Death
Jets 1-1 Sydney FC

Sydney FC Line Up

1.Ivan NECEVSKI (gk)
4.Ranko DESPOTOVIC
5.Matt JURMAN
6.Nikola PETKOVIC
9.Corey GAMEIRO
10.Alessandro DEL PIERO (c)
11.Richard GARCIA
13.Sasa OGNENOVSKI
14.Mitch MALLIA
17.Terry ANTONIS
20.Vedran JANJETOVIC (gk)
22.Ali ABBAS
24.Hagi GLIGOR
25.Daniel PETKOVSKI
28.Matt THOMPSON
29.Alec UROSEVSKI
35.Dylan CATON
36.Themba MUATA-MARLOW.
Two to be omitted

Ins: Daniel PETKOVSKI (promoted), Richard GARCIA (return from injury), Dylan CATON (promoted), Matt THOMPSON (promoted).

Outs: Aaron CALVER (suspended – 1 week), Milos DIMITRIJEVIC (quad – 1 week).

Unavailable: Rhyan GRANT (knee – season), Pedj BOJIC (back – 2 weeks), Nick CARLE (adductor – 1 week), Seb RYALL (calf – 1 week).

Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United

Sat Feb 22 AAMI Park 7:30 PM

Victory Line Up

1.Nathan COE (gk)
2.Pablo CONTRERAS
3.Adama TRAORE
4.Nick ANSELL
5.Mark MILLIGAN (c)
6.Leigh BROXHAM
7.Gui FINKLER
9.Kosta BARBAROUSES
10.Archie THOMPSON
11.Connor PAIN
13.Andrew NABBOUT
14.James TROISI
16.Rashid MAHAZI
20.Lawrence THOMAS (gk)
21.Tom ROGIC
22.Jesse MAKAROUNAS
24.Scott GALLOWAY
25.Jason GERIA
Two to be omitted

Ins: 9.Kosta BARBAROUSES (returns from injury), 11.Connor PAIN (promoted), 20.Lawrence THOMAS (gk) (returns from injury), 22.Jesse MAKAROUNAS (Promoted), 25.Jason GERIA (promoted)

Outs: 17.James JEGGO (omitted) 30.Keegan COULTER (gk) (Omitted), 23.Adrian LEIJER (facial fractures)

Unavailable: Nil

Reds Set To March On in Melbourne?

Kristian Stojanov

Kevin Muscat's Melbourne Victory side appear to be back on track after winning their last two matches but it is the visiting Adelaide United who are the competitions in-form side at the moment and could prove to be a serious handful this Saturday night.

Melbourne Victory only just snuck through to the AFC Champions League after over-turning a half-time deficit to edge out Thai powerhouse club Muangthong United 2-1 at Simonds Stadium on Saturday night.

Victory will now feature in the group stages of the AFC Champions League for a fourth time in their short history, lining up alongside Marcello Lippi's Chinese powerhouse Guangzhou Evergrande, J-League runners-up Yokohama F. Marinos and Korean side Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors. Saturday night's successful performance in Geelong ensured back-to-back wins for Victory in all competitions and a much-needed boost of confidence.

Victory now face a tough task against one of the competitions in-form sides when focus turns back on the A-league. Josep Gombau's Adelaide side have been in formidable form and have only lost one match since their 2-1 home defeat to table topping Brisbane in December, on the way collecting 21 points from a possible 30 to jump up to third on the table, ahead of Victory on goal difference.

Adelaide United's season has gone from strength to strength, with the Reds announcing on Wednesday that they have re-signed star man Marcelo Carrusca for next season. Carrusca along with Fabio Ferreira have been key figures behind Adelaide's resurgence, Ferreira scoring four goals in six games.

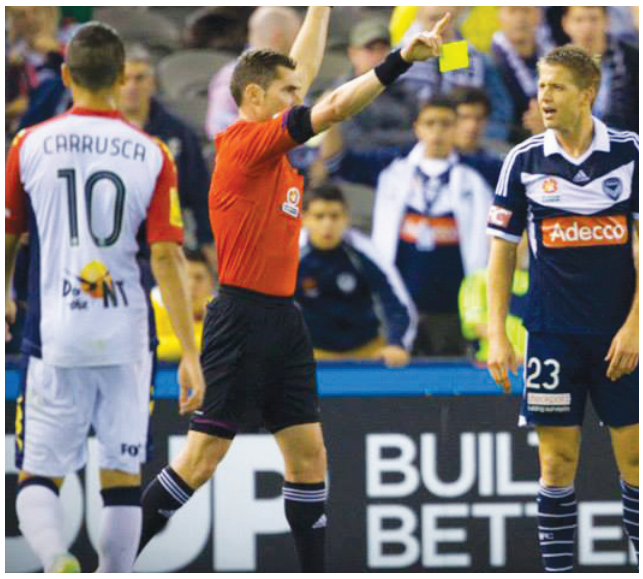
The performances of veteran Chilean defender Pablo Contreras may be an issue for Victory. Capped 67 times by the national team, Contreras has fast become a liability in the heart of the Victory defence. Only cross-town rivals Melbourne Heart have conceded more goals than Muscat's men, who have let in an astonishing 29 goals in just 19 games. And Contreras, Victory's marquee man, has played a big part in the club's defensive woes. Kevin Muscat will be hoping the defender has his head screwed in right against the high-flying Reds.

Adelaide may be on a luscious run of form but their last triumph in Melbourne dates all the way back to 2011 when they claimed a 4-1 demolition of the Victory. The last time these sides met Victory ran out 3-0 winners at Etihad Stadium which extended Adelaide's winless streak against Victory in Melbourne to four games.

After eight games without a goal, James Troisi finally found the target against Central Coast Mariners, scoring twice to take his total to nine goals this season, making him the competition's equal top scorer. If he wasn't on Ange Postecoglou's radar already, he should be now.

Adelaide have had a strong run of results, which mainly comes down to the team's improved defensive effort. The Reds have kept six clean sheets from their past 10 matches. Defeat to Adelaide would mean back-to-back home defeats for the first time since 2005 for Victory.

It is a tough ask predicting who will prevail in this big encounter but it surely promises to be an entertaining match between two of the A-league's high-flying sides.



The Odds	Head-to-Head
Victory 2.15 Draw 3.40 AUFC 3.50	Played 32 Victory 16 Adelaide 10 Drawn 6

Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones

TV Broadcast: 3.00pm (AEDT) Live and exclusive coverage on FOX Sports 1HD and Sky Sport 2 (New Zealand).
Radio Broadcast: ABC Grandstand full coverage Online/Mobile A-league live phone app.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MVCvADL

Kiss of Death
Victory 2-1 Adelaide

Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk) (c)
2.Michael MARRONE
3.Nigel BOOGAARD
4.Jon McKAIN
5.Osama MALIK
7.JERONIMO
8.ISAIAS
9.Sergio CIRIO
10.Marcelo CARRUSCA
11.Bruce DJITE
14.Cameron WATSON
16.Daniel BOWLES
17.Awer MABIL
19.Jake BARKER-DAISH
20.Paul IZZO (gk)
21.Tarek ELRICH
22.Fabio FERREIRA
23.Jordan ELSEY
two to be omitted

In: 21.Tarek ELRICH (returns from suspension), 19.Jake BARKER-DAISH (promoted), 16.Daniel BOWLES (promoted)

Out: 18.Michael ZULLO (suspended- 1 week)

Unavailable: 6.CASSIO (hamstring tendon – indefinite), 15.Jacob MELLING (knee – 2 weeks), 31.Ryan GRIFFITHS (shin soreness – test)

Perth Glory v West Sydney Wanderers

Sat Feb 22 nib Stadium 9:30 PM

Glory Line Up

1.Daniel VUKOVIC (gk)
2.Jack CLISBY
3. Brandon O'NEILL
5. Rostyn GRIFFITHS
7. Jacob BURNS
8. Nebojsa MARINKOVIC
9. Shane SMELTZ
11.Adrian ZAHRA
14.Steven McGARRY
16.Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES
17. Chris HAROLD
18. Jack DUNCAN (gk)
19. Josh RISDON
20.Daniel DE SILVA
23.Michael THWAITE
25. Riley WOODCOCK
28. Darvydas SERNAS
36. William GALLAS
** two to be omitted **

Ins: 3. Brandon O'NEILL (promoted), 11. Adrian ZAHRA (promoted) 20.Daniel DE SILVA (promoted)

Outs: 10. Jamie MACLAREN (omitted)

Unavailable: Travis DODD (knee - indefinite), Scott JAMIESON (achilles - indefinite)

Best of the West take on Wanderers

Peter Simcox

Western Sydney Wanderers will make the long trip to the West on Saturday to take on Perth Glory at the nib Stadium (6.45pm WA time) With Brisbane Roar dropping points last week the Wanderers, who had the weekend off, will be looking for all three points, to close the gap on the league leaders.

They will look to continue their success against Perth, having not lost against the Glory, since their introduction into the A-League. But it will be a busy week for Tony Popovic's side, with their ACL group game in midweek against Ulsan Hyundai at Pirtec Stadium, but the coach brought out the normal comment …. 'One game at a time'.

Popovic said the break was perfectly timed, as it's the only respite they'll get for the remainder of the season. "It was an opportunity to work on a few things in training and also give some of the boys some down time," Popovic said.

The former Socceroo has been criticised for his `rotation policy' but all his players are now fit and rearing to go, at just the right time. Defender Jerome Polenz and midfielders Mateo Poljak and Iacopo La Rocca have all made comebacks from injury over the last few weeks, and the coach expects all players to be back for their trip to Perth. "It's a new experience for us (ACL), here at the club and we're looking forward to the challenge," he said. "But it's one step at a time. We've got to take care of Perth first... then we'll shift our attention to a tournament that is very prestigious ... and we want to represent the A-League well."

Perth Glory coach Kenny Lowe remains defiant about his team's form despite stretching their winless run to five matches with a 2-1 defeat against Sydney FC last week. "I thought we deserved something from the game. We lacked a bit of quality and the end product, but I thought we had a little bad luck and we had some poor finishing," he said.

Lowe, however, remains confident of turning their modest run of results around, which has seen the Glory win only two games from eight starts since he took over from Alistair Edwards.

"We will just get back to the training ground and work even harder," he said.

"It's not rocket science. You prepare as best as you can and you work even harder.

"We just need to keep doing what we are doing, except score some goals.

"The positives are that we are creating chances, we dominated the game. We just have to keep rolling on and keep believing."

Both sides need the three points, Perth needs to keep in touch with the top six, while the Wanderers need to keep on the tail of the Roar at the top of the table.

The last time the two teams meet in Western Australia, was in round 13 last season at Paterson's Stadium. Labinot Haliti gave the Wanderers the lead before half time, but a Nick Ward goal three minutes from time earned Glory a point.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Glory 3.50 Draw 3.40 Wanderers 2.20	Played 4 Glory 0 Wanderers 3 Drawn 1

Referee: Shaun Evans

TV Broadcast: 5.00pm (AEDT) Live and exclusive broadcast on FOX Sports 1HD and Sky Sport 2 (New Zealand).

Radio Broadcast: ABC Grandstand Full coverage Online/Mobile A-league live phone app. Sport FM (Perth)

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PERvWSW

Kiss of Death
Glory 3-1Wanderers

Wanderers Line Up

2.Shannon COLE
3.Adam D'APUZZO
4.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY
7.Labinot HALITI
8.Mateo POLJAK
9.Tomi JURIC
10.Aaron MOOY
11.Brendon SANTALAB
13.Matthew SPIRANOVIC
15.Kwabena APPIAH
17.Youssouf HERSI
19.Iacopo LA ROCCA
19.Mark BRIDGE
20.Jerrad TYSON (gk)
22.Dean HEFFERNAN
23.Jason TRIFIRO
30.Thomas MANOS (gk)
31.Alusine FOFANAH
Two to be omitted

Ins: 15.Kwabena APPIAH (promoted), 22.Dean HEFFERNAN (promoted), 23.Jason TRIFIRO (promoted), 30.Thomas MANOS (promoted), 31.Alusine FOFANAH (promoted)

Outs: 1.Ante COVIC (groin – 1 week), 6.Jerome POLENZ (suspension – 1 week), 20.Shinji ONO (illness – 1 week)

Unavailable: Nil

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All KO times are AEDT

Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar

Sun Feb 23 AAMI Park 5:00 PM

Heart Line Up

1.Andrew REDMAYNE (GK)
4.Orlando ENGELAAR
6.Patrick GERHARDT
7.Iain RAMSAY
8.Massimo MURDOCCA
11.Michael MIFSUD
13.Jonatan GERMANO
15.David WILLIAMS
16.Aziz BEHICH
17.Jason HOFFMAN
19.Benjamin GARRUCIO
20.Tando VELHAPI (GK)
21.Stefan MAUK
22.Nicholas KALMAR
23.Mate DUGANDZIC
24.Patrick KISNORBO
27.Luke O'DEA
One to be omitted

Ins: 11.Michael MIFSUD (promoted), 13.Jonatan GERMANO (returns from injury)

Outs: 3.Robbie WIELAERT (suspended – accumulation)

Unavailable: 10.Harry KEWELL (toe – one week)

Heart set to face Roar in acid test

Chris Hearn

The Brisbane Roar travel to Melbourne this Sunday to face a Melbourne Heart side who's hopes of a finals berth has gained momentum with each passing fixture. The sole meeting between these two sides this season, resulted in a comfortable 3-0 win to the Roar on the 3rd of November.

Much has changed in both camps since then, however. The Roar, led by Mike Mulvey, will be looking to bounce back after an indifferent period of form. Two wins from their past five fixtures is not form befitting that of potential champions.

The 1-0 loss against the Jets saw them succumb to a second half Adam Taggart penalty, before Henrique hit the upright with 10 minutes to play.

Despite this form slump, the Roar find themselves 7 points clear of the Western Sydney Wanderers. Only a catastrophe of enormous proportion could deny them the Premiers plate now. Of the 7 remaining fixtures of the home and away season, 5 are scheduled for Suncorp stadium. The minor premiership is all but sewn up, thanks to Mulvey recapturing snippets of form from trophy-laden seasons of yesteryear.

The job is not yet done though, and resting on their laurels will make for a unnecessarily nervy final period of the regular season.

Melbourne Heart are firing on all cylinders, a 5-0 win in New Zealand last week underlined their dramatic and undeniable improvement under John v'ant Schip's guidance. And they did so without injured skipper Harry Kewell.

This record-breaking victory coincided with the return of Orlando Engelaar from suspension, as his debut did with the Heart's first win of the campaign. V'ant Schip will be hoping for an uninterrupted spell in the team, after his injury and recent suspension. His astute positional sense and sharp passing in midfield make him an asset both offensively and defensively. He will be crucial in the midfield battle, in which Brisbane will surely dominate possession and territory. Engelaar's strength in transition is yet to be really tested. Another man who's quality has come to the fore is David Williams. The 25-year old bagged a hat-trick last week which takes his tally to 5 goals in his last three appearances, the previous two as a substitute. On form, Williams is easily the best performer in the division.

The league leaders may actually enter this game as the underdogs, which may play into their hands, also knowing that the Heart have to attack. But big performances are needed, particularly from senior players.

Kewell will miss this clash, while there are no new injury concerns for the Roar.

Melbourne Victory-bound Besart Berisha was poor in Newcastle last week, his last goal coming against the Mariners on the 2nd of February. The question marks around his form could go a long way to deciding this match, and ultimately the A-League championship.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Heart 3.40	Played 10
Draw 3.40	Heart 3
Roar 2.15	Roar 5
	Drawn 2

Referee: Adam Kersey

TV Broadcast: 5.00pm (AEDT) Live and exclusive broadcast on FOX Sports 1HD and Delayed Broadcast on Sky Sport 2 (New Zealand). Radio Broadcast: 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local radio Victoria, 612 ABC Brisbane, ABC Local Radio Queensland, Grandstand Digital, Online/Mobile A-league live phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MHTvBRI

Kiss of Death
Heart 2-2 Roar

Roar Line Up

1.Michael THEO
2.Matthew SMITH (c)
3.Shane STEFANUTTO
5. Ivan FRANJIC
7. Besart BERISHA
8. Steven LUSTICA
10.HENRIQUE
11. Liam MILLER
13.Jade NORTH
14. Diogo FERREIRA
15. James DONACHIE
16. Jean Carlos SOLORZANO
17. Matt McKAY
18.Luke BRATTAN
20.Matthew ACTON (gk)
22.Thomas BROICH
23.Dimitri PETRATOS
26. Corey BROWN
**Two to be omitted* *

Ins: 11.Liam MILLER (returns from suspension), 26.Corey BROWN (Promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 25.George LAMBADARDIS (knee - season)

FIFA/Coca-Cola World Rankings

Country	Pts
1 Spain	1506
2 Germany	1314
3 Argentina	1255
4 Portugal	1219
5 Colombia	1211
6 Switzerland	1159
7 Uruguay	1157
8 Italy	1135
9 Brazil	1125
10 Netherlands	1122
11 Belgium	1117
12 Greece	1084
13 USA	1044
14 Chile	1038
15 England	1032
16 Croatia	966
17 Bosnia	919
18 Ukraine	917
18 France	917
20 Denmark	907
21 Mexico	887
22 Russia	862
23 Côte d'Ivoire	841
24 Ecuador	831
25 Sweden	821
26 Algeria	819
27 Slovenia	799
27 Cape Verde Isles	799
29 Serbia	775
30 Armenia	771
53 Australia	576
89 New Zealand	378

Round 20: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT Mariners - 10 Phoenix - 2 - Draw - 3 Jets - 8 Sydney FC - 3 Draw - 4 Victory - 10 Adelaide - 3 Draw - 2 Glory - 5 Wanderers - 5 Draw - 5 Heart - 7 Roar 4 Draw 4

Santo Cilauro 47
CCM
Jets
Victory
Glory
Heart
Last week: 3

Working Dog Productions

George Donikian 43
Draw
Jets
Adelaide
Draw
Heart
Last week: 3

Media Mogul

George Calombaris 46
Phoenix
Draw
Victory
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 2

No.1 Victory ticket holder

Eddie Krncevic 26
Draw
Jets
Adelaide
Draw
Heart
Last week: 1

Former Socceroo

John Perin 40
Phoenix
Draw
Draw
WSW
Roar
Last week: 1

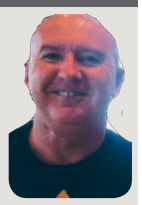
Hall of Fame Socceroo

Andy Harper 36
Mariners
Newcastle
Victory
Wanderers
Draw
Last week: 1

NSL Champ / Fox Sports

Ross Alatsas 46
Mariners
Jets
Victory
Glory
Heart
Last week: 3

GM Greek Media Group

Jimmy Campbell 46
Mariners
Jets
Victory
Glory
Heart
Last week: 3

Former Socceroo

George Campbell 43
Draw
Sydney
Adelaide
Wanderers
Roar
Last week: 3

Sth Melb & NSL Legend

Jimmy Rooney 33
Central Coast
Draw
Victory
Glory
Draw
Last week: 2

World Cup '74 Socceroo

Roger Sleeman 43
Mariners
Jets
Draw
Draw
Draw
Last week: 3

Reigning Tipping Champ

John Doyle 30
Mariners
Sydney
Victory
Wests
Brisbane
Last week: 1

Original Captain Socceroo

Peter Katholos 45
Mariners
Sydney
Victory
Draw
Heart
Last week: 3

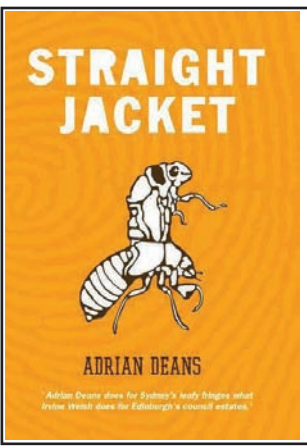
Former Socceroo

Steve Blair 40
Mariners
Jets
Victory
Draw
Roar
Last week: 1

Former Socceroo

Kiss Of Death 41
Mariners
Draw
Victory
Glory
Draw
Last week: 2

GW Contributors



A new novel by GW's Adrian Deans

Adrian Deans does for Sydney's leafy fringes what Irvine Welsh does for Edinburgh's council estates. Straight Jacket is a ripsnorter of a ride through the dark heart of the burbs and may just be Australia's answer to American Psycho.
Kirsten Krauth, just_a_girl

Sometimes funny, sometimes disturbing, and always compelling. With a super original premise and a one-of-a-kind protagonist, Deans' entertaining follow up to Mr Cleansheets delivers on every level.
Tony Wilson, Making News

A disturbingly good read. Unnerving and darkly comic.
Stuart Quin, Ealing Studios Australia

Available from Readings Bookstores

Green Gully Soccer Club

Bingo every Thursday night

Play Keno At Green Gully!

TAB

M T W 9am - Midnight T & F 9am - 1am
Sat 10am - 2am Sun 10am - Midnight

Green Gully Soccer Club

VPL Champions: 1981,1982, 1983,1999,2000,2003,2005, 2010, 2011

Green Gully Reserve, Club House Place Keilor Downs VIC 3038 Melway Reference: 14 E8
Tel: (03) 9366-6697 Email: ggullysc@bigpond.net.au

Top Opta Facts

Catch LIVE updates of all the games and action pics on Goal! Weekly's facebook & Twitter pages

Round 20

CC Mariners v Wellington Phoenix

Central Coast Mariners are unbeaten in their last 10 A-League games against Wellington Phoenix (W8 D2).

In their last 10 A-League games against CCM, Wellington Phoenix have netted just four goals.

Central Coast Mariners have kept a clean sheet in each of their last four A-League home games against the New Zealanders.

Central Coast Mariners have seen 11 different players score in the A-League for them this season, but their top scorer has just three goals (Sterjovski and Flores).

Carlos Hernandez has had a hand in more goals than any other A-League player so far this season (13 – five goals, eight assists).

There have been 21 goals scored in the last five A-League games involving Wellington Phoenix.

Wellington come in to this match off the back of their heaviest A-League defeat (0-5 v Melbourne Heart) since February 2013.

Central Coast Mariners have lost three successive A-League games for the first time since December 2009 (five in a row).

Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC

Sydney FC have won their last two A-League games against Newcastle Jets by a 2-0 scoreline.

Alessandro Del Piero has scored three and assisted one goal in his five A-League appearances against Newcastle.

Newcastle Jets have both scored and conceded in their last seven A-League home games against Sydney.

Adam Taggart has scored more goals from outside the box than any other A-League player this season (4).

After going seven A-League appearances without a goal for Newcastle, Taggart has scored three in his last two games for the Jets.

Newcastle Jets have won just one of their last eight A-League games (W1 D2 L5), but this came last weekend against league leaders Brisbane Roar.

Just one of Sydney FC's last 20 A-League games has ended in a draw.

Sydney have failed to score in five of their last nine A-League away games.

Newcastle have won the fewest number of points from home games this season (10).

Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United

Melbourne Victory have lost just one of their last 15 A-League matches at home (inc. playoffs) against Adelaide United (W11 D3 L1).

Adelaide have conceded a goal in each of their last 15 A-League away trips (inc. playoffs) to Melbourne Victory.

Jeronimo Neumann has scored in two of his last three A-League appearances against Melbourne Victory.

James Troisi has had a hand in 12 goals in the A-League this season (nine goals, three assists) – only Wellington's Carlos Hernandez (13) has had more.

Melbourne Victory have gone nine A-League games without a clean sheet; the longest current run in the competition.

Adelaide have scored in eight successive A-League games; the longest current run in the competition.

Melbourne Victory lost their last A-League home game against Sydney FC – they haven't lost back to back A-League home games since November 2005.

Adelaide have kept six clean sheets in their last 10 A-League games, including two in their last two.

Perth Glory v West Sydney Wanderers

Perth Glory have never won an A-League game against Western Sydney Wanderers (D1 L3).

Western Sydney Wanderers have conceded just two goals in four previous A-League meetings with Perth Glory, but have netted themselves in all four.

Aaron Mooy has scored in his last two A-League appearances against Perth Glory for Western Sydney Wanderers.

Despite seeing 10 different players score an A-League goal for them this season,

Perth Glory do not have a single player that has netted more than three goals in the competition this term.

Western Sydney Wanderers have scored in 17 of their 19 A-League games this season; more than any other side.

Perth Glory are currently on the longest winless run in the A-League (five games – L3 D2).

Western Sydney Wanderers have drawn their last two A-League games – they've never drawn three in a row.

Perth Glory have conceded just one goal in their last four A-League home matches.

Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar

Both Besart Berisha and Henrique have scored three goals in the last five A-League meetings with Melbourne Heart since

Brisbane Roar have scored in every one of their previous 10 A-League games against Melbourne Heart.

Melbourne Heart have won their last two home games in the A-League versus Brisbane Roar, netting seven goals in the process.

Melbourne Heart have conceded in 16 of their 19 A-League games this season; more often than any other side.

After going 19 A-League games without a win, Heart have four of their last five matches in the competition (W4 D1).

Brisbane Roar have won more points away from home than any other A-League side this season (20).

Melbourne Heart will be looking to keep back to back clean sheets for the first time since December 2012 in the A-League.

Brisbane have not gone three games without a win in the A-League in over a year, last doing so in January 2013.

RAISING MY OPINION

Andre Zwan in NZ

FIFA gets shirty with celebrations

The days of players displaying personal messages on their undershirts could be over should the International Football Association Board (IFAB) alter Law 4 – the player's equipment – at their AGM in Zurich on March 1.

The meeting, chaired by FIFA President Sep Blatter, will undoubtedly endorse a recommendation in relation to slogans and/or advertising on undergarments. Another hot topic will be the proposal to introduce video replays to support match officials.

It's very likely that the proposal to prohibit players revealing political, religious, personal slogans, statements or images or advertising other than the manufacturers logo, will be adopted and that players doing so will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA.

Currently a player can reveal on any item of undergarment a personal statement or an image. How often have we not seen a player, once he scored a goal, race around lifting his team jersey over his head showing a message or image on an undergarment.

Another issue likely to raise its head is the display of religion on the field e.g. crossing yourself and pointing to Heaven.

It has been and will continue to be a busy time for FIFA's executive. Faced with problems in Brazil for this year's World Cup, they are also concerned about the working conditions of thousands of construction employees in Qatar as that country prepares to stage the World Cup in 2022. The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy in Qatar have provided FIFA with a detailed report and have undertaken to improve the welfare and living conditions of migrant workers.

Meanwhile discussions will continue on the issue of labour rights in Qatar, a country known for its failure to provide proper care for its construction labourers who are primarily from Asia. In fact when I lived in Doha, we had Bangladesh labourers living in the garage of our apartment building. The International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Trade Union Confederation and various Human Rights organisations have now initiated dialogue to improve labour rights and conditions for migrants working on FIFA related projects.

Talking World Cup action..... New Zealand might not have qualified for the World Cup this year but the country will be represented in Brazil.

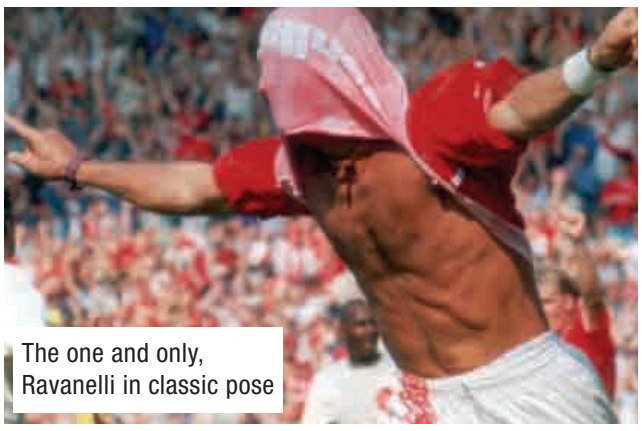
Peter O'Leary, New Zealand's top whistle blower will be officiating as will assistant referee Jan Hendrik Hinz who will be attending his 8th FIFA tournament. Another Kiwi, Mark Rule, will be an assistant referee to the Oceana referee Norbert Huala of Tahiti.

PHOENIX INVESTIGATE NEW ARENA

The Hutt City Council (Wellington)have announced plans for a new boutique football specific sports stadium based at the current Petone Recreation site.

While the Wellington Phoenix has at this stage only made a conditional commitment to moving to the proposed arena, Wellington Phoenix chairman Rob Morrison and co-owner Dr Gareth Morgan said that it is an exciting proposal that could deliver a fan centric and financially attractive model that is vital to securing the on-going financial viability of the Club.

"A purpose built football stadium has to be an attractive proposition for the Phoenix and although there are clearly a number of hurdles to be overcome, this is a proposal the Phoenix is keen to support" Morrison said.



The one and only, Ravanelli in classic pose

"The Phoenix's number one stated objective from day one has been to make the club financially viable so as to leave a legacy for football in New Zealand.

"Any proposition that could make a material difference to the financial stability of the club has to be taken seriously.

"Westpac Stadium is a great ground for big crowd games but when the club is only averaging 7,000 to 8,000 crowds, then financially Westpac Stadium doesn't work."

Dr Morgan says by changing to a stadium with a lower cost structure and one that has the ability to deliver an unrivalled fan experience, it will enable the Phoenix to play more games overall in Wellington.

"We have to re-invent the game-day experience for fans and the start of that process is an arena fit for purpose, where the fans get up close and personal to the action with a ground tailored to the needs of a football audience," Dr Morgan said.

"We must follow the modern day trend for football stadia internationally which shows the successful ones are intimate and designed to really amplify the fan experience.

"Only by building a 12,000-15,000 seat football specific stadium with state of the art technology will the fans turn up in sufficient numbers to safeguard the financial viability of the club long term.

"This new arena promises this and while there is a lot more work to be done, we'd be crazy not to investigate the potential further".

Besides a match day venue, the project plan includes a children's play area and it will be structured to allow community groups to be part of the arena experience with food stalls and entertainment.

The Petone site is attractive as a development for its excellent transport hubs – it has two adjacent train stations and there are plans for a Tawa to Petone road link – but also due to a number of valuable partnerships situated nearby.

If the proposed arena goes ahead and the Phoenix can reach agreement on a partnership model, Dr Morgan says that Westpac Stadium will still play an important role as a Phoenix venue.

"Our on-going relationship with Westpac Stadium is critical for us," he said.

"Our plan as a club is to dominate the A-League and as we realise that ambition we will be getting more and more finals-type games in Wellington as well as visiting overseas clubs.

"Westpac Stadium will be our venue for those big crowd games."

If the proposal proceeds, construction on the project is scheduled to begin later this year with the arena potentially ready for the 2016/17 A League season.

**Andre Zwan is a former journalist and Government Affairs strategist.*

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TOM ROGIC 21

PHOTOS & GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS

Photos: ADAM BUTLER, ADRIAN GAGLIONE, KEITH EIGELAND, PETER MCDONALD

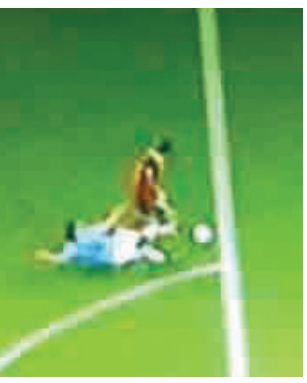
TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Compiled by Roy Skillen

It's been another week of controversial refereeing decisions around the football world. Thankfully, the adjudicators in the A-League have been solid and it's the refs at the top of the game in English Premier League And UEFA Champions League taking all the heat. First there was Howard Webb.

The English man has not had the best of seasons and topped it off by failing to award Liverpool's Luis Suarez a blatant penalty in their FA Cup tie against Arsenal. The Uruguayan international did make a meal of the contact by flapping around like a fish out of water but it was still more of a penalty than this.

But we shouldn't be too hard on old My Webb his eyesight isn't what it once was.



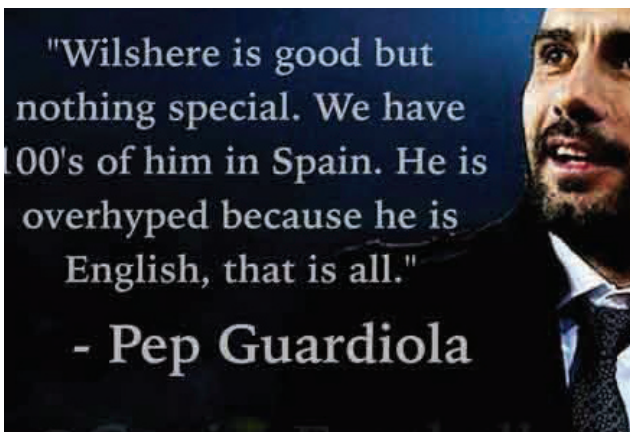
101 Great Goals @101greatgoals-Feb 17
ICYMI: Howard Webb taken apart on Twitter for shocking performance during Arsenal v Liverpool http://www.101greatgoals.com/blog/referee-howard-webb-taken-apart-on-twitter-for-shocking-performance-during-arsenal-v-liverpool/ … pic.twitter.com/qkHHLbroqK

You would think with the money those poncy la-di-da European referees get paid that they would be able to get the big decisions right and you would think with the amount of money that Samuel Eto'o earns that he could afford to buy some socks.

English football itself is going through a bit of a rebirth at the moment. Manchester Utd are no longer top dogs and the national team is seeing the end of the golden generation with the likes of Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard gradually losing their legs. There has been a lot of talk about the Everton's Ross Barkley and Arsenal's Jack Wilshere taking over the mantle and leading their country to glory , but are they really that special?

Lets ask Pep Guardiola.

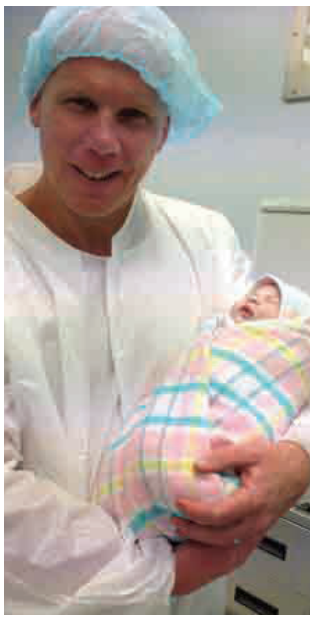
Football Funnys @FootballFunnys Feb 17
Guardiola on Wilshere. pic.twitter.com/u2ufqXgT38



Elsewhere, more scandal hit the football world with the Iran Woman's team being caught and reprimanded by FIFA for cheating. No they weren't drinking pigs blood or injecting the first milk of a mother cow like the Essendon boys were in that egg chasing code. They weren't spot fixing matches for groups of well-financed Chinese gamblers or spiking the water in the dressing rooms of opposing team. The problem was that the Iran Woman's team weren't even women at all.

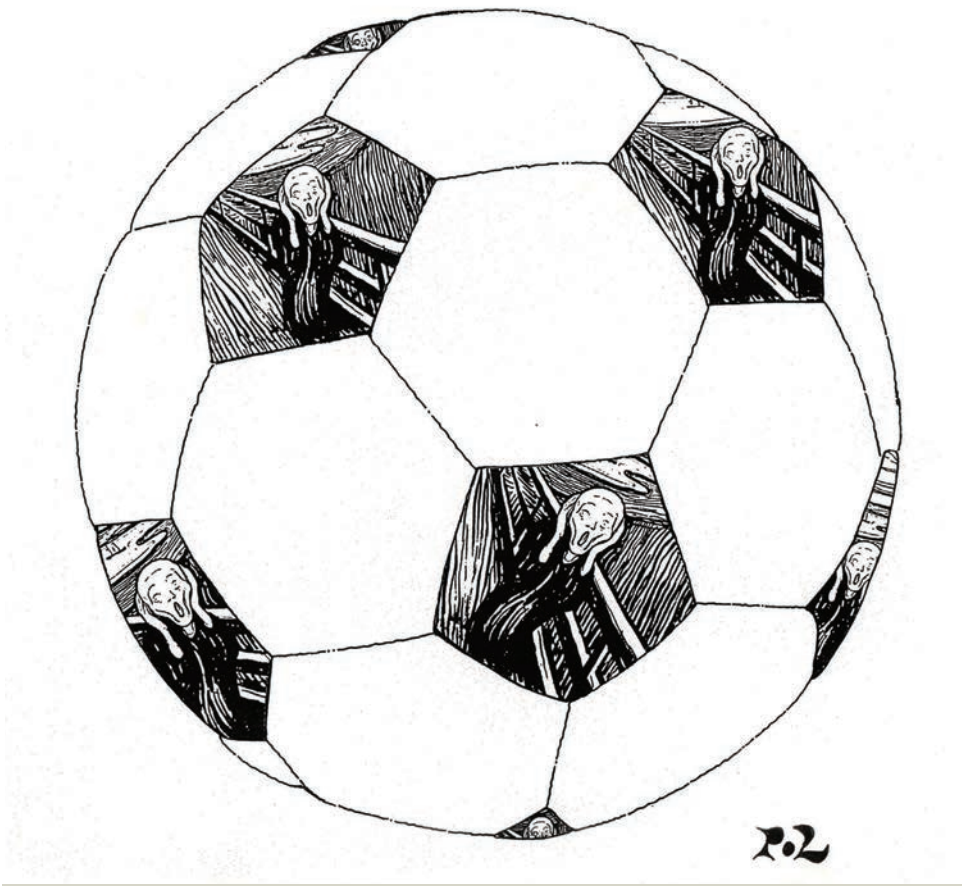
GeniusFootball @GeniusFootball-Feb 17
Dafak, look at the No.10 o.O pic.twitter.com/aqfHjl6uJ3

Lastly, we can't go past this week with out saying congratulations to Fox Sports presenter Robbie Slater on the birth of his new baby. How many is that now Slats?



Robbie Slater @RobbieSlater17 11h
Here I go again ha ha number 4 on the way ! Sister coming for the boogie ! pic.twitter.com/T8BhC-MYUm3

PoL's Football Funnies



Boo's World

Mark Boric

The Socceroos launched a new kit for the World Cup this week, with the design harking back to the 1974 vintage. Fitting perhaps, as this seems to be the World Cup where we are expected to get flogged in every game again.

Was watching the the BATFA's the other night and was suprised to see Youssouf Hersi on stage getting an award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for a movie called Captain Phillips. Hope his burgeoning Hollywood career does not get in the way of his football.

On the Hollywood theme, who's writing the script for Melbourne Heart this season? It's starting to get a bit far-fetched, going from eternal losers to winning five in a row, capped with putting five goals past an in-form Wellington Phoenix in an away game. After not winning away since Les Murray still had his original name.

Melbourne Victory's ACL qualifier against Muangthong United was an action packed affair down in Geelong. Missed chances, missed penalties and missed red cards (Andy Harper just wouldn't let go of it), there was nothing missing. A rare Leigh Broxham goal capped an epic comeback to allow Victory to progress to the customary Group of Death.

If you have Foxtel, you would probably have seen the Fox Sports montage of The Cove/Farina Out drama of last week a couple of dozen times. At the rate it was getting played it had the video of the Johnny Aloisi penalty against Uruguay looking over it's shoulder to see if it was close to being overtaken.

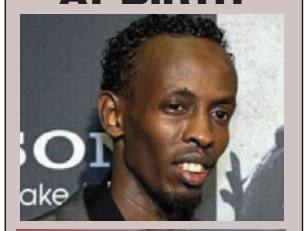
The win of Sydney over Perth Glory ruined the narrative for Fox Sports, but they did manage to stress that it was an ugly win. Which it pretty much was, but having the the term "ugly win" come up in bold, italicised and underline in the closed captioning was indicative that they really wanted to make that clear.

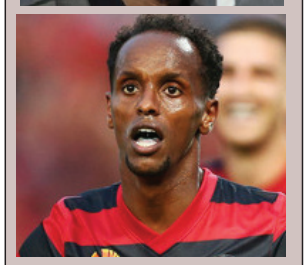
The FFV made their big NPLV announcement, which was not that #NPLVIC was the new hashtag for all things NPLV on Twitter, but that it would comprise of two tiered divisions. NPLV1 club Surf Coast United went early with the April Fool's tweets, announcing a name change to Great Ocean Roar, which was met with both howls of derision and great roars of laughter.

Wenger v Mourinho may not just be the EPL title battle this season, it could end up being on the card at Wrestlemania the way it is going. The real life version is starting to give the old Special 1 TV clips a run for their money. Just needs a giggling Wayne Rooney on the sidelines to make it complete.

No sign of the Voyeur in this instance, but plenty of giving it to me on the email. I'm fantastic! Be champions!

SEPARATED AT BIRTH





Both stars in their own right. One playing a lead role in Hollywood, and the other in attacke for Western Sydney.
Captain Philips and Youssouf Hersi know how to turn it on for an audience.
Seen any uncanny doppelgangers lately?
Let us know on our facebook page and you could win a prize.

We all know the power of football to move people as well as nations, now here is your chance to be part of the World Premiere of a movie that tells exaclty that story.
Tickets to "More than Just a Game" are now available, a film that the Reagan Milstein Foundation features in.
Buying a ticket also raises money for the RMF.
Tickets start from $25 and the opening night is Thursday May 1st from 7pm at the Classic Cinema in Elsternwick.
You can buy your tickets at www.sportaroo.com/morethanjustagame
The film is all about discovering the true nature of football and its power to change lives.
See more about it here at https://www.facebook.com/morethanjustagame
Meet the film crew and "stars" on the night.
Dont miss it!

The Reagan Milstein Foundation

Metropolitan and Albert Park was a lost cause from the start Metropolitan crushing their lowly opponents 19-3 with strike duo Ernie Simsek & Juso Julardzija (Pictured) bagging 11 between them to keep Metro in the hunt for an FAFL spot.

Two great rivals took to the court in Vic Vipers and Pascoe Vale usually a tight game on this occasion it wasn't even close Pascoe romping to a 4-1 victory, Sarah Richardson and Ili Jakab played starring roles for the black and white as they keep in touch with the top of the league.

Leaders Melbourne Uni took on the youngest side in the league in EFA Eagles. In what proved another difficult clash for one of the leagues big guns only star striker Marcela Marques could separate the two sides as Uni kept their lead at the top for now.

Ashburton took on a very understrength Fitzroy side and to be fair Fitzroy were no match from the start. Ashburton goal machine Emma Hubbard was on fire bagging all five Ashburton goals as they coasted to a 5-2 Victory.

After seeing Pascoe demolished the Vipers had the chance to wrap up the title when they took on Ashburton, Although the green machine were not in a generous mood as they to crushed the would be champions in the same manner that Fitzroy did lead by former Viper Ricardo Castro who bagged a brace, It meant the Vipers would now need only 2 of a possible 6 points remaining to seal the league, Surly they couldn't blow it from here.

What looked like the clash of the night on paper quickly turned into a nightmare for the current champions, Pascoe Vale being blown off the court by what is quickly becoming a dominant Fitzroy side, Brazilian duo Fernando De Moraes and Joao Silveira combined for 5 out of the 9 goals to keep themselves firmly in second place and with a slim chance at a title.

Futsal Oz Scoreboard

PEPSI Women's V-League Premiership

Results

FC Richmond 5-4 Heidelberg FC
EFA Eagles 1-3 Melbourne Uni FC
Vic Vipers FC 1-4 Pascoe Vale FC
Ashburton FC 5-2 Fitzroy FC

Next Round

21st February
6:30pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs Melb Uni
7:30pm - Ashburton FC vs Heidelberg
8:15pm - Pascoe Vale vs Richmond
9:00pm - Melb Uni FC vs Fitzroy FC
9:45pm - Vic Vipers FC vs EFA Eagles
10:30pm - Fitzroy FC vs FC Richmond

NIKE Men's V-League Premiership

Results

Albert Park FC 3-19 Metropolitan FC
Fitzroy FC 9-3 Pascoe Vale FC
Vic Vipers FC vs Ashburton FC
Mickleham FC 4-2 Hume FC

Next Round

23rd Febuary
5:00pm - Fitzroy FC vs Ashburton FC
6:00pm - Metro FC vs Pascoe Vale FC
7:00pm - Hume FC vs Vic Vipers FC
8:00pm - Mickleham FC vs Albert Park

Top Goal Scorers

Women's

1. Marcela Marques - Melb Uni - 35
2. Dani Gudelj - Fitzroy FC - 18
3. Letizia Sammut - Melb Uni FC - 15
4. Niki Cook - Melbourne Uni FC - 14
5. Ili Jakab - Pascoe Vale FC - 13

Mens

1. Ricardo Castro - Ashburton FC - 39
2. Juso Julardzija - Metro FC - 37
3. Ernie Simsek - Metro FC - 31
4. Sofiane Soufi - Pascoe Vale FC - 25
5. Fernando De Moraes - Fitzroy - 25

Standings

NIKE V-LEAGUE Premiership

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Vic Vipers FC	19	16	3	0	0	118	66	+52	48
2 Fitzroy FC	18	13	4	0	1	128	66	+62	40
3 Metropolitan FC	18	11	4	0	3	142	89	+53	36
4 Pascoe Vale FC	18	11	5	0	2	105	56	+49	35
5 Hume FC	19	7	9	0	3	101	75	+26	24
6 Ashburton FC	18	7	9	0	2	99	88	+11	23
7 Mickleham FC	19	2	15	0	2	72	142	-70	8
8 Albert Park FC	19	0	18	0	1	44	227	-183	1

Pepsi Womens WV-LEAGUE

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Melbourne Uni FC	16	13	2	0	1	99	28	+71	40
2 F.C Richmond	15	12	2	0	1	74	42	+32	37
3 Fitzroy FC	17	10	5	0	2	67	61	+6	32
4 Pascoe Vale FC	14	10	4	0	0	63	22	+41	30
5 Vic Vipers FC	17	5	9	0	3	47	56	-9	18
6 Ashburton FC	16	4	10	0	2	55	87	-32	14
7 EFA Eagles	15	3	12	0	0	33	83	-50	9
8 Heidelberg FC	16	1	14	0	1	39	98	-59	4

State League Championship

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Balwyn	18	14	3	0	1	122	67	+55	43
2 CF Brunswick	18	12	1	0	5	106	65	+41	41
3 Moreland F.C	18	8	8	0	2	89	82	+7	26
4 Brimbank FC	18	7	8	0	3	100	122	-22	24
5 FC Carlton	19	6	9	0	4	88	87	+1	22
6 FC Melbourne	18	6	11	0	1	85	85	+0	19
7 FC Northcote	17	5	9	0	3	66	90	-24	18
8 FC Essendon	18	4	13	0	1	64	122	-58	13

State League One

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Collingwood	19	15	3	0	1	108	45	+63	46
2 Brighton FC	19	13	2	0	4	108	58	+50	43
3 FC Prahran	19	9	5	0	5	92	65	+27	32
4 CF South Melb	19	9	8	0	2	101	90	+11	29
5 FC Hawthorn	19	8	9	0	2	87	101	-14	26
6 Toorak FC	19	6	9	0	4	67	88	-21	22
7 FC Footscray	19	4	14	0	1	71	116	-45	13
8 Coburg Athletic	19	2	16	0	1	58	129	-71	7

State League Two

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Preston	19	13	5	0	1	84	65	+19	40
2 Doncaster FC	19	12	4	0	3	88	64	+24	39
3 Mcleod FC	19	12	5	0	2	98	81	+17	38
4 FC Richmond	19	9	8	0	2	100	101	-1	29
5 Eagles FC	19	7	10	0	2	81	94	-13	23
6 FC Geelong	19	6	12	0	1	98	87	+11	19
7 Elsternwick FC	19	5	12	0	2	61	77	-16	17
8 FC St Klda	19	5	13	0	1	79	97	-18	16

Title chasing Richmond take on a full strength Heidelberg. Richmond came home with the 3 points although in a much more difficult game than they had anticipated. Richmond leader Melinda Aloisio was the star of the show bagging 2 goals and leading her side to a much needed Victory.

Welcome to FUTSAL OZ™ Our Programs

Social League competitions
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Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
• Mixed Social Leagues
Create a team with men & women (min 2 women)
• Junior Leagues (boys & girls)
(5 to 18 year olds)
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
• Elite Leagues (boys & girls)
Only for elite players –

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for teams & individuals – improve skills & fitness, including goal keeper training
• Elite training
high level training includes goal keeper training
• Junior training
from beginners to elite
(see 'ALL Juniors– Boys & Girls 'from 2 years to 16 years of age')

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Fun way to start the ball rolling during school hours
(1 to 5 year olds)
• Junior Oz Clinics
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(3 to 9 years old)
• School Holiday Program
Every school holidays Futsal all day training & games
• Social Junior Leagues
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Belgium's best chance for World Cup glory

We complete the analyses for each group and every team participating at this year's tournament.

Belgium

Confederation: UEFA
Nickname: Les Diables Rouge (French) or Rode Duivels (Flemish)
Semi-finalist: 1986
Round 16: 1990, 1994, 2002
Round 2 (different format): 1982
Qualified: 12 times
Most capped player: Jan Ceulemans (96 games and 23 goals)
All-time top goal scorer: Bernard Voorhoof (30 goals from 61 appearances) and Paul Van Himst (30 from 81 games)
FIFA ranking: 11

Belgium dominated their qualification group, remaining undefeated over the 10 games. This exciting new generation of players is already producing a fluent attacking football, backed up by a tight and well disciplined defensive structure. The squad has the right blend of different aged players that evidence has shown is ideal for success at World Cup tournaments.

Coached by a former Belgian international legend in Marc Wilmots, the group draw could hardly have been kinder for the "Red Devils" (English translation).

The midfield includes Manchester United's flamboyant Marouane Fellaine (47 caps and seven goals). Everton's Kevin Mirallas (42 games and 9 goals) usually takes a wide attacking role and complemented by rising young star Kevin (18 games and four goals) who recently transferred to Wolfsburg in the Bundesliga.

As specialist striker, there is Christian Benteke (six goals and 17 caps) who is a prolific scorer for Aston Villa over the past two years, while 20 year old Romelu Lukaku (26 games and five goals) with Everton also provides a wonderful option up front.

Leadership and team captaincy is from Manchester City star Vincent Kompany (56 appearances and four goals) as a central defender. In the left back position is Jan Vertonghen (54 caps and four goals) with Tottenham Hotspur)

Belgium will expect to open their account against the Algerians with three points, and then face Russia five days later at the Maracana with much confidence.

Algeria

Confederation: CAF
Nicknames: Les Fennecs (The Desert Foxes)
Best finish: yet to progress beyond group stage
Qualified: 4 times
Most capped player: Lakhdar Belloumi (101 times and 27 goals)
All-time top goalscorer: Abdelhafid Tasfaout (34 goals in 79 appearances)
FIFA ranking: 26

Vincent Kompany (Belgium)

Madjid Bougherra (Algeria)

Alexsandr Kerzhakov (Russia)

Lee Chung-Yong (Korea)

Les Fennecs rode their good fortune to prevail in the tightest of all of the African play offs, and qualifying only on the away goals rule at the expense of the unlucky Burkina Faso.

Their head coach Vahid "Vaha" Halilhodzic is another Bosnian who excelled as player in French club football until the mid-1980s.

Algeria has never got out of the group stage in three previous WCs and it is highly unlikely they will be able to overcome that record.

The team will be captained by central defender Madjid Bougherra (60 appearances and four goals) previously a star for Glasgow Rangers, and who somewhat surprisingly scored the critical winning goal in the second leg of qualification play off last November. In a left wing back position there is Djamel Mesbah (25 caps) now on loan to Livorno.

Valencia's Sofiane Feghouli (17 caps and five goals) is a dominant wide attacking mid-fielder. The main striker options include Dinamo Zagreb's El Arbi Hillel Soudani (19 caps and nine goals) and Islam Slimani (17 appearances with nine goals) of Sporting Lisbon.

A huge test awaits "Les Fennecs" in the opener against the group favourites. Unless they can follow up that with an amazing upset win over the Koreans their chances look remote to challenge for second spot.

Russia

Confederation: UEFA
Nickname: Sbornaya (Team or Selection)
Best finish: yet to progress beyond group stage
Qualified: 3 times
Most capped player: Viktor Onopko (109 caps and seven goals)
All-time top goal scorer: Vladimir Beschastnykh (26 goals from 71 games)
FIFA ranking: 22

Previously, Russia had not qualified in three out of five attempts since the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. And despite a wonderful start, they also bowed out at the group stage of the most recent Euro 2012.

Italian coach Fabio Capello managed to steer them back on track after a mid-campaign form lapse to just edge out Portugal for top spot and automatic qualification. Winning all five home games proved to be the main difference.

Just about every member of the squad will be from clubs within Russia, perhaps a deficiency in terms of limitations to technical flexibility.

Russia will most likely be captained by central midfielder Roman Shirokov (12 goals and 40 caps) of Zenit St Petersberg. Alan Dzagoev (29 caps and eight goals) from CSKA Moscow and a stand out at Euro 2012 may again provide further attacking midfield brilliance.

Alexsandr Kerzhakov (24 goals from 77 games) also with Zenit is likely to be preferred as the main striker.

At the back, there is enormous experience from Sergei Ignashevich (93 appearances and five goals) and Vasili Berezutski (74 and three goals), with the latter a twin brother of fellow international Aleksei. Igor Akinfeev (65 caps), also with CSKA is another world class keeper, and let in only five goals during the 10 qualifiers.

The outcome of an opening encounter against their main rivals (for second place) in Korea could well have the influence on whether Russian aspirations convert to success. Their main goal may be to not lose such a game and then fancy themselves to bag enough goals versus Algeria on the final match day in Curitiba.

Korea

Confederation: AFC
Nickname: Asian Tigers or Taeguk Warriors (also the Red Devils)
Best finish: Semi-final 2002
Round 16: 2010
Qualified: 9 times
Most capped player: Hong Myung-Bo (136 games and 10 goals)
All-time top goal scorer: Cha Burn-Kun (55 goals from 121 appearances)
FIFA ranking: 53

With such a lot of experience at WC finals and success at that memorable tournament when co-hosts, Korea's ranking must surely be dismissed at yet another example of a flawed system. Head coach is Hong Myung-Bo, one of the greatest Asian players of all time.

Although they very nearly imploded near the end of a tricky qualification group campaign to finish second on goal difference ahead of the unlucky Uzbekistan, the "Taeguk Warriors" are sure to be highly competitive in June.

They are led by captain and wide right midfielder Lee Chung-Yong (52 appearances and six goals) of Bolton Wanderers, and complemented by the likes of Koo Ja-Cheol (34 caps and 12 goals) from Mainz 05 in Germany.

There are many options up front, including rising young star Ji Dong-Won (eight goals from 26 appearances) of Augsburg. Lee Keun-Ho (18 goals and 58 caps) on national military service with Sangju Sangmu in the K-League may be preferred to veteran Lee Dong-Gook (99 games and 30 goals) from Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors .

In defence, there is less certainty in terms of selections especially after the faltering qualification campaign. There was much experimentation during three friendlies in January, which included a heavy loss to Mexico. Hong Jeong-Ho (22 caps and one goal) of Ausburg seems to be back in favour in central defence. Others for consideration include Kang Min-Soo (33 caps) of Ulsan Hyundai, Kwak Tae-Hwi (33 games and five goals) with Al-Hilal In Saudi Arabia and left back Park Joo-Ho (13 caps) from Mainz 05.

The opening crucial game with Russia could well determine who eventually finishes in second spot behind Belgium. If, as expected, they bring their fluent attacking style to create and convert chances at the critical points then it will be tough for any opponents.

Group H

Algeria
Belgium
Korea
Russia

The Schedule

Belgium vs Algeria
17 June in Belo Horizonte

Russia vs Korea Republic
17 June in Cuiaba

Korea Republic vs Algeria
22 June in Porto Alegre

Belgium vs Russia
22 June in Rio de Janeiro

Algeria vs Russia
26 June in Curitiba

Korea Republic vs Belgium
26 June in Sao Paulo

Pablo's Synopsis

There is already huge expectation that Belgium will produce the goods and many predictions of perhaps even going deep into the tournament's knock out stages. The pressure will be on to deliver and this group provides a big opportunity to achieve progression in top spot.

Of the others, perhaps only Algeria will struggle to make an effective enough impact.
A big relief for both European teams will be to not endure the heat and humidity of tropical or Equatorial venue cities in the north.

The result of the opening game between Russia and Korea may well be the biggest factor in determining which of the two do progress. If it is draw, this may suit the Koreans better as they next play Algeria and will hope to take full advantage by winning with a large margin. Goal difference could become critical by the end of the final group games.

Pablo's Predictions

1. Belgium
2. Korea
3. Russia
4. Algeria

The Final Verdict

Over the past two months we've had a good look at every team competing at the 2014 WC. It is almost too close to decide between the hosts and their fiercest rivals for title success. Spain appears to be one of only a very few European teams that can challenge the first pair. If Colombia can get Falcao back on the park in time, they could go deep into the tournament.

Whether you are fortunate enough to be travelling to Brasil or watching the live coverage on SBS with fellow fans back in Australia, enjoy what promises to be the ultimate of all World Cup finals. Go our Socceroos!

1. Argentina
2. Brasil
3. Spain

Dark horse: Colombia

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English Premier League

Gerrard: We need to bounce back quickly

Steven Gerrard is determined not to let FA Cup elimination derail Liverpool's push for a top-four finish in the Premier League.

The Liverpool captain scored a penalty in his side's 2-1 fifth-round defeat at Arsenal on Sunday, after goals from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Lukas Podolski had put the hosts in command at the Emirates Stadium.

Brendan Rodgers' side were denied what looked to be another spot kick shortly after Gerrard's 60th-minute effort, as Oxlade-Chamberlain brought down Luis Suarez in the area.

Gerrard described the incident as a "stonewall penalty", but referee Howard Webb waved away the visitors' appeals, allowing Arsenal to gain a measure of revenge for their 5-1 top-flight mauling at Anfield last week.

The 33-year-old England skipper expressed his bewilderment with Webb's decision, but called on his team-mates to respond immediately against Swansea City on Sunday to maintain their challenge for UEFA Champions League qualification.

"In my opinion it was a stonewall penalty," Gerrard told the Liverpool Echo.

"It was even more blatant than the penalty which was awarded.

"Howard Webb is a top referee and I'm sure he will have a look at himself. He obviously did not think it was a foul, but I am disappointed with the decision.

Steven Gerrard must now focus on the title after Liverpool's FA Cup exit

"Going out of the cup is a blow but the effort, the attitude and the character was excellent.

"There is nothing to be down about. Sometimes you just don't get what you deserve from games and this was an example of that.

"We have to move on, dust ourselves off and go again against Swansea next Sunday. The way we're playing at the moment, we're a match for anyone.

"We need to bounce back quickly - that's what top sides do after a setback."

Tottenham need Adebayor, says Kaboul

Younes Kaboul has praised Tottenham team-mate Emmanuel Adebayor for becoming a key part of Tim Sherwood's side.

Adebayor found himself out of favour at White Hart Lane under former head coach Andre Villas-Boas, but has scored eight goals in 10 Premier League appearances since Sherwood took over.

Kaboul feels the Togo international has become a vital player for Tottenham, adding that the club can feel able to push for a top-four finish with Adebayor in such a rich vein of form.

"If you give confidence someone like Ade, he will repay you so much more," Kaboul told the London Evening Standard. "He will give you the best, and that is what is happening now.

"Every player can always do better, but he is performing very well and we need him.

"The thing with Emmanuel is that he has always been a top player. He has always been up there, and he is not someone I have ever seen as an average player."

Tottenham travel to Ukraine to face Dnipro in the UEFA Europa League on Thursday, before visiting Norwich City in the Premier League on Sunday.

Anelka hearing to take place next week

West Brom striker Nicolas Anelka will have a personal hearing over his controversial 'quenelle' celebration early next week.

The former France international became embroiled in controversy when he made the salute after scoring in a 3-3 draw at West Ham in December.

Anelka, who faces a five-match ban if found guilty, requested a personal hearing after denying he had acted in an "abusive or indecent or insulting or improper" manner.

The 34-year-old vehemently insisted that the sign - which is considered by some to have any anti-Semitic connotations - was to show his support for his comedian friend Dieudonne M'bala M'bala.

M'bala M'bala is credited with inventing the gesture, which is described as an inverted Nazi salute.

M'bala M'bala leapt to Anelka's defence last month, describing the former Real Madrid man as a "prince" and "a brother in humanity".

West Brom's backing of the striker has led to sponsor Zoopla ending their association with the club, while anti-racism group Kick It Out have previously voiced their frustration at the length of time it took the FA to act on the issue.

ENGLAND EPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Chelsea	26	17	6	3	48	21	+27	57	D W W D W
2 Arsenal	26	17	5	4	48	26	+22	56	D L W D W
3 Manchester City	25	17	3	5	68	27	+41	54	D L W W W
4 Liverpool	26	16	5	5	66	32	+34	53	W W D W D
5 Tottenham Hotspur	26	15	5	6	36	32	+4	50	W W D L W
6 Everton	25	12	9	4	37	26	+11	45	L W L D W
7 Manchester United	26	12	6	8	41	31	+10	42	D D L W L
8 Southampton	26	10	9	7	37	29	+8	39	W D W D D
9 Newcastle United	26	11	4	11	32	38	-6	37	L L L D W
10 Swansea City	26	7	7	12	33	36	-3	28	D W L W L
11 West Ham United	26	7	7	12	28	33	-5	28	W W W D L
12 Aston Villa	26	7	7	12	27	36	-9	28	D L L W D
13 Hull City	26	7	6	13	25	31	-6	27	L W D L L
14 Stoke City	26	6	9	11	27	41	-14	27	D D W L L
15 Crystal Palace	25	8	2	15	18	34	-16	26	W L W W L
16 Norwich City	26	6	7	13	19	39	-20	25	L D L D W
17 West Bromwich ...	26	4	12	10	30	38	-8	24	D L D L D
18 Sunderland	25	6	6	13	25	38	-13	24	L W W D W
19 Cardiff City	26	5	7	14	19	44	-25	22	D L W L L
20 Fulham	26	6	2	18	26	58	-32	20	L D L L L

Latest Results	Next Match
Cardiff City 0 - 0 Aston Villa	Chelsea v Everton
Hull City 0 - 1 Southampton	Arsenal v Sunderland
West Ham 2 - 0 Norwich City	Cardiff City v Hull City
WBA 1 - 1 Chelsea	Manchester City v Stoke City
Arsenal 0 - 0 Man United	WBA v Fulham
Everton PSTP Crystal Palace	West Ham v Southampton
Man City PSTP Sunderland	Crystal Palace v Man Utd
Newcastle 0 - 4 Tottenham	Liverpool v Swansea City
Stoke City 1 - 1 Swansea City	Newcastle Utd v Aston Villa
Fulham 2 - 3 Liverpool	Norwich City v Tottenham

One To Watch This Weekend...

EPL action resumes this weekend after a round of FA Cup football. The title-chasing big guns are at all home, and Mile Jedinak's Crystal Palace hosts Manchester United. Can our Socceroo inflict more pain on Moyes' men at Selhurst Park?

Hazard urges focus after FA Cup disappointment

Eden Hazard has warned that Chelsea still have a lot of work to do if they are to win silverware this season.

Saturday's defeat to Manchester City ended the Premier League leaders' FA Cup run at the fifth-round stage, and Belgium international Hazard was disappointed with his side's display at the Etihad Stadium - where they had won 1-0 in the top flight just 12 days earlier.

Chelsea are now fighting for two trophies this season, with the Londoners sitting a point clear at the top of the Premier League ahead of their UEFA Champions League last-16 clash with Galatasaray.

And Hazard knows an improvement on their performance at the Etihad is needed if they are to be in contention for success come May.

"Collectively we were worse because individually we were not good," he told Chelsea's official website. "That can happen.

"Especially in the first half we could have better with some phases of play. Maybe it was a lack of confidence but it was not our day.

"We never managed to find a solution once they had scored. We were just not in the game.

"We have to keep working and move on from this match because we have a very important league game next weekend and that's our focus now."

Chelsea host Everton in the league on Saturday, before travelling to Istanbul for the first leg of their European tie on February 26.

Jose Mourinho will not dwell on Chelsea's FA Cup defeat to Manchester City and wants to get back to winning ways as quickly as possible.

The defeat was Chelsea's seventh of the season in all competitions but, rather than letting the result drag his morale down, Mourinho is focusing on the Premier League match with Everton on Saturday.

"I don't like to lose but when I lose, instead of big crying I want the next match to come," he told the club's official website.

"I want to play, I want to try to have again the taste of the victory.

London Eye

Robert Davis

Why The Premier League Needs Mourinho

Whatever the thinking is behind Mourinho's strange, yet seemingly well-calculated outbursts, it's something that has been missing from managers in the top flight in recent years. Arsène Wenger's feud with Alex Ferguson had turned into mutual respect (boring!) and Brendan Rodgers' pearls of wisdom have turned him into the footballing equivalent of David Brent...

Very rarely does such a huge figure in the sporting world divide opinions so ferociously. There is only one man who can be described as a gentleman in one sentence and a bully in the next, providing genius wit and one-liners for the broadsheets along with scandal and controversy for the tabloids in a matter of seconds. Loathe or despise him, football in England needs José Mourinho.

In what hasn't even been a year since his return to these shores after spells in Italy and Spain, it feels as if the former Porto coach never left. Taking his place back at the helm of Chelsea, the Portuguese tactician has already sold the club's player-of-the-year two terms running to Manchester United, dropped England's first choice left-back the season before the World Cup and accused the longest serving manager in the Premier League of being a 'specialist in failure'. What on earth did the newspapers and websites fill columns with in his near six-year absence?

Fans and journalists hang from his every word and dissect them in a way that can only be described as 'mind-games'. Mind-games with managers, mind-games with players and mind-games with the press themselves, but it has always been more than that with Mourinho. It's as if he knows the outcome already, yet still plays the game.

The two time Champions League winner is clearly very clever with his words but he also knows the ones to pick at the right times. 'We can't win the league this year', he says after sending the Blues to the top of the league. Not only is the London club in the frame for the title, they're joint favourites alongside Manchester City to take the crown. Mind-games? Or simply giving him and his team a safety blanket should they fail?

Whatever the thinking is behind Mourinho's strange, yet seemingly well-calculated outbursts, it's something that has been missing from managers in the top flight in recent years. Arsène Wenger's feud with Alex Ferguson had turned into mutual respect (boring!) and Brendan Rodgers' pearls of wisdom have turned him into the footballing equivalent of David Brent, which, whilst still hilarious, isn't quite the scandal the papers and public yearn for.

Performances on the pitch haven't quite set the league alight though, despite topping the table. Liverpool, Arsenal and City have all left audiences stunned at one point or another in the season with jaw-dropping displays, whereas Chelsea seem to grind out their results in a more unfashionable style; the highlight being a 3-1 demolition of Manchester United at home.

Mourinho claimed that it would be 'too easy' to simply beat Arsenal 1-0 before their game against them over Christmas due to the brand of football demanded by owner Roman Abramovich. The match ended up being a 0-0 bore draw and raised questions about the manager's tactics and whether they can be perceived as 'anti-football', an analogy usually held back for a Sam Allardyce or Tony Pulis type.

But that's what makes him such a compelling character. It's genuinely believable that his side could beat Arsenal 1-0 every time and it's his ability to take such accusations about his style of football and his methods on and off the field that keep us prodding for more information. Each time asking more and more questions that would have made other managers leave a press conference and ban whoever posed such a thought from coming within a 50 mile radius of them. Mourinho can take it all in his stride and carry such baggage and controversy as he's the one that brings it on himself, leaving him in control of the majority of situations from the start.

It looked like there may have been the rekindling of a rivalry this term that surfaced a few years ago in La Liga between Mourinho, then in charge at Real Madrid, and new man at the Etihad, Manuel Pellegrini, who was at Malaga. The Chilean though has remained fairly subdued since taking over at the Etihad and it is the Chelsea manager who continues to throw the punches, hoping to draw a reaction from the man he succeeded in Madrid. The footballing faithful deserve a good mud-slinging match between two big-time managers every once in a while and it's usually the former Inter Milan coach that provides. But with his retorts now infamous after years of waxing lyrical, it's no wonder other managers aren't willing to go head to head with him.

So whilst the Spanish press and fans prefer someone with a bit more class, perhaps someone who doesn't poke the opposition coach in the eye during a touchline melee. And whilst the Italians want someone who doesn't cause the entirety of Italian referees in Serie A to almost go on strike, he'll always have more than enough admirers in England.

Love him or hate him, journalist or supporter, the Premier League is a better place with Mourinho back in it.

Couch Potato * ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SETANTA SPORTS

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 1st Leg Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
Scottish Premiership Round 27
Dundee United v Motherwell
6:45am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Bundesliga Round 22 Schalke v Mainz 9:00am 1st Airing
Copa Libertadores 2nd Stage Matchday 3 Highlights Show
12:40pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 32 Middlesbrough v Leeds 11:15pm LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Scottish Premiership Round 27
Hearts v Celtic 11:45pm LIVE on setantasportsplus.com

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
Sky Bet Championship Round 32
Brighton v Wigan 2:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Bundesliga Round 22 Hamburg v Dortmund 5:00pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 22 Wolfsburg v Leverkusen 10:40pm 1st Airing

MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY
Bundesliga Round 22 Frankfurt v Werder Bremen 1:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 22 Hannover v Bayern Munich 3:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 22 Monchengladbach v Hoffenheim 6:20am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 4 TBC v TBC 8:10am LIVE
Primera Division Round 4 TBC v TBC 11:10am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 22 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 32 Highlights Show 9:00pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY
Scottish Premiership Round 27 Highlights Show 5:20pm 1st Airing

THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
Copa Libertadores 2nd Stage Matchday 4 Atletico Mineiro v TBC 11:50am LIVE

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 2nd Legs
Napoli v Swansea 4:50am LIVE
Rubin Kazan v Real Betis 4:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Sevilla v Maribor 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Shaktar v Plzen 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Salzburg v Ajax 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Frankfurt v Porto 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Basel v Maccabi Tel-Aviv 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Tottenham v Dnipro 6:55am LIVE
Valencia v Dynamo Kiev 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Fiorentina v Esbjerg 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Genk v Anzhi 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Benfica v PAOK 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Ludogorets v Lazio 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Bundesliga Round 23 Preview Show 5:20pm 1st Airing
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 2nd Leg Highlights Show 5:50pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH
Bundesliga Round 23 Hertha Berlin v Freiburg 6:25am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 28 Hibernian v Dundee United 6:45am LIVE on setantas-

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
All times AEDT
All games LIVE unless stated

WEEK 28
Sat Feb 22 Chelsea v Everton
11.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Feb 22 Arsenal v Sunderland
1.50 am Fox 1
Sun Feb 23 Cardiff v Hull
1.50 am Viewers Choice
Sun Feb 23 Manchester City v Stoke
1.50 am Viewers Choice
Sun Feb 23 West Brom v Fulham
1.50 am Viewers Choice
Sun Feb 23 West Ham v Southampton
1.50 am Viewers Choice
Sun Feb 23 Crystal Palace v Man Utd
4.20 am Fox 1
Mon Feb 24 Liverpool v Swansea
12.20 am Fox 1
Mon Feb 24 Newcastle v Aston Villa
12.20 am Fox 2
Mon Feb 24 Norwich v Tottenham
2.50 am Fox 1

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE
ALL GAMES LIVE ON FOX 1

Fri Feb 21 Mariners v Wellington
7.30 pm Fox 1

Sat Feb 22 Newcastle v Sydney FC
5.30 pm Fox 1

Sat Feb 22 Melb Victory v Adelaide
7.45 pm Fox 1

Sat Feb 22 Perth v Wanderers
9.45 pm Fox 1

Sun Feb 23 Melb Heart v Brisbane
5.00 pm Fox 1

Asian Champions League
Wed Feb 25 FC Seoul v Central Coast
9.30 pm Fox 2

Thu Feb 26 Wanderers v Ulsan Hyundai
7.30 pm Fox 2

Thu Feb 26 Guangzhou Evergrande v Melbourne Victory
11.00 pm Fox 2

SUNDAY SHOOT OUT
Every Sunday 7.00pm

SANTO, SAM & ED'S TOTAL FOOTBALL
Mondays at 7.30pm on FOX Sports 1

SPANISH LA LIGA
Sun Feb 23 Real Sociedad v Barcelona
5.55 am Fox 2

Mon Feb 24 Osasuna v Athletico Madrid
6.55 am Fox 1

SBS

SBS ONE
Evey Friday
7:30 pm A-League Live

Wednesday February 26th
6:30 am UEFA Champions League
Olympiacos v Manchester United
LIVE

Thursday February 27th
6:30 am UEFA Champions League
Galatasaray V Chelsea
Live

Every Sunday
4:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

Every Monday
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Every Thursday
8:30 pm Thursday FC
11:00 pm UEFA Champions League Highlights Show

SBS TWO
Every Monday
8:30 pm A-League Highlights Show

TV Heaven

Matthew Naqvi

The W-League Grand Final is upon us and what a cracker is set to be! Melbourne Victory was too good for rivals Sydney FC last weekend in a 3-2 win. Melbourne was determined to defeat the Sky Blues especially after last season's Grand Final loss.

With a team of talented players, this is as good a shot at success as Victory will ever have. Captain Steph Catley has proven to be a great leader of Victory and she has the potential to be a Championship captain in her first season in charge. Catley is riding the high of being signed this week to Portland Thorns for the 2014 NWSL season. Lisa De Vanna will be the X factor in the final and her strength and speed could undo the Brisbane defence. De Vanna's combination with Jessica Fishlock will be the key to Victory domination and goals.

Brisbane Roar beat league leader's Canberra United last week in the first semi-final. Brisbane has a dangerous line-up of Matilda players including FIFA World Player of the Year Nadine Angerer, Clare Polkinghorne and Katrina Gorry will be the key players for Victory to be wary of.

Two weeks ago Brisbane defeated Victory 1-0 at home in the final round of the season. However with the home ground advantage and the determination to avenge last season's Grand Final loss, Melbourne Victory should get a 2-1 win against the Roar to claim their first W-League Champions title.

Show your support of the Melbourne Victory women in their quest for the title and be there at Lakeside Stadium at 3pm. If you can't make it to the ground, the game will be broadcast live on ABC1.

In the A-League, Saturday evening is the time for the game of the round between Melbourne Victory and Adelaide United. Victory has been sidetracked with the ACL, injuries and indifferent form at times but they will be determined to overtake Adelaide on the ladder and fortify their position in the top four.

In the two encounters earlier in the season, Victory has come away with a win and a draw. Since their last encounter, Adelaide has jumped into third spot with a bullet and their recent run has been nothing short of incredible with only one loss from their last ten games.

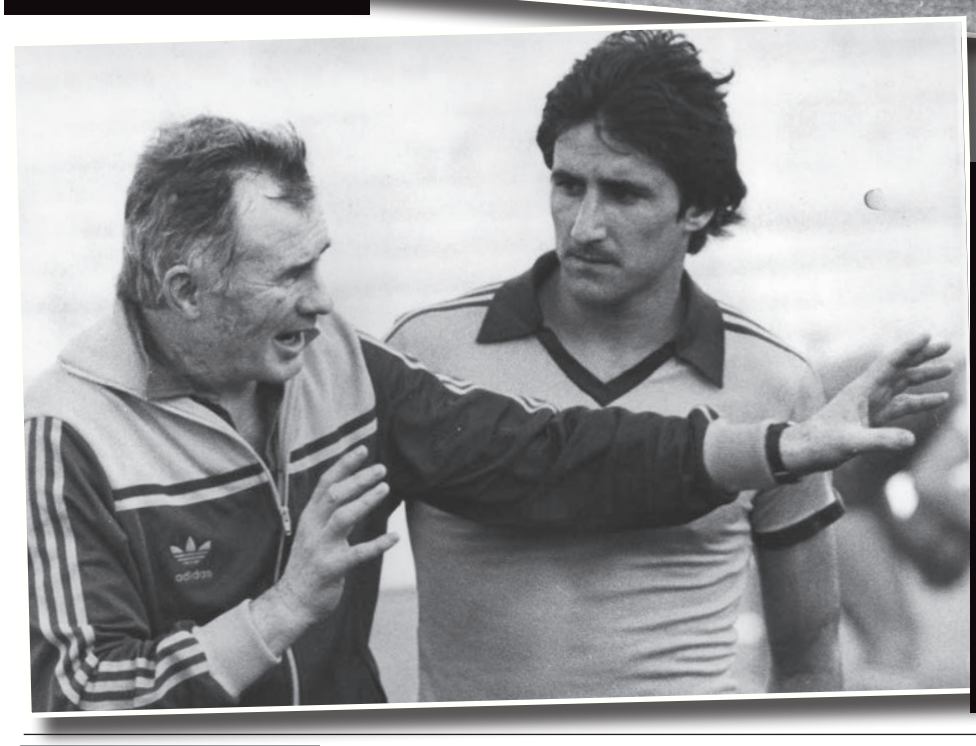
Victory may have been a little hot and cold recently but they are always a force to be reckoned with, especially at home. This match is certain to be an exciting, free-flowing contest with both sides looking to score plenty of goals. Victory should be able to edge out Adelaide in a 3-2 win the fans will love to watch.

Once the weekend's action is over make sure to tune into SBS for The A-League Highlights Show hosted by Craig Foster and The World Game on Monday night. Get your comedy gold fix with Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football over on Foxtel. Thursday FC is your option for light entertainment on Thursday night on SBS.

Blast From The Past

By Alvaro Rodriguez

Socceroo Oscar Crino gives Scotland's Roy Aitken the run-around in the 2nd leg of the WC qualifying tie between Australia and the Sir Alex Ferguson-coached Scots at Olympic Park, Melbourne in 1985. Despite their semi-professional status of the time, our boys refused to yield to the star-studded Scots (Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness etc.), only losing the 1st leg 2-0 and holding off the Tartan Army's pride to a nil-all draw in the Melbourne match. It was a heartening achievement given Australia's failure to reach the final qualification stage of the previous World Cup (Spain '82), which had seen New Zealand qualify at our expense.



Photos: Les Shorrock Collection, Deakin University

Frank Arok talks Charlie Yankos through a training drill in camp with the Socceroos. The Hungarian/Serb-born Arok remains one of the most beloved figures in the national team's history, occupying the national hot-seat from 1983 to 1990 after coaching St. George-Budapest in the NSW state league during the 1960s-'70s. During his tenure the Socceroos pulled off some exhilarating upsets, most notably the 4-1 trouncing of world champs Argentina in 1988 and qualifying for the knockout rounds of the Seoul Olympics' football tournament the same year. Sadly however, the endgame that is World Cup qualification was to elude him.

Katsa's Korner

George Katsamboukas

The upset of the Round was certainly Melbourne Heart's 5-0 win, over in Sunny NZ, over the Wellington Phoenix.

The Heart could not buy a Goal under ex Manager John Aloisi, and in particular David Williams, who scored a hat trick in the win over Wellington, was missing chance after chance, however all of that is now a distant memory and John Van Schip has certainly changed the Heart's fortunes since he has taken over.

Over to the Harbour City we go, where Frank Farina survived another tumultuous week, and more importantly, one where he did not wear a fan's plastic cup of Beer.

Sydney FC defied all the critics, me included, with a 2-1 win over Perth Glory; however the Jury is still out, as to Farina's future, remembering the clause in his contract requiring Sydney FC to be in the Top 4 at Seasons End, for Farina to continue on in the top job.

Kevin Muscat's Melbourne Victory also returned to the Winners Circle with a 2-1 win over Central Coast Mariners, a result that could have gone either way, had the Man in Black awarded a clear penalty to the Central Coast Mariners, early in the first half.

Strange thing was that after the foul was committed and a free kick was awarded outside the box, he was at pains not to look at the large screen that showed the replay of the incident, and that the foul was committed inside the Penalty box, unlike the Mariners Fans and Players who watched the replay to justify in their own minds, that the incorrect decision was given.

The FFA has extended the Australian based A- League Club's licenses for a further 20 years, with the intention being to provide these Clubs with a stable future and environment to build for the future.

Wellington Phoenix's License was only extended to 2016.

The FFV has announced the successful applicants to the NPL and NPL1 Leagues for season 2014, with some Club Powerbrokers breathing a sigh of relief, now that they know which League their team will be participating in.

However, not all is finalised as yet until these Teams actually accept their positions in these Two Leagues, with a big sticking point at this stage being, their ability to assemble the required number of Junior Players for every age category.

It will also be interesting too how the Regional Teams will fare in the NPL and NPL1, with Ballarat Red Devils, Goulburn Valley Suns, Bendigo Amateur Soccer League and Surf Coast making the jump to the Big Leagues, however, their security blanket, and those of the other participants, in the NPL and NPL1, is that there is no relegation for three years.

As such this then poses an interesting challenge to the State 2 Teams, in terms of their planning for Season 2014, as if they finish first or second, will not be promoted.

The Socceroos' World Cup Strip was released on Monday and at first glance, it is rather interesting to say the least, with a real "Retro" look to it, some punters like it, whilst other do not.

What will be important for our Game though are our performances at Brazil, and all Socceroos' supporters alike will be hoping that they produce favourable results.

Until next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him

Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

CURITIBA GIVEN LIFELINE BY FIFA

Officials in Curitiba have conceded they underestimated the demands of hosting World Cup matches as the venue's status was confirmed on Tuesday after FIFA had considered ditching the Brazilian city over stadium construction delays.

FIFA backed down on a threat to remove Curitiba from the World Cup program, saying they were satisfied enough had been done to accelerate the construction to ensure completion by mid-May - one month before the start of this year's tournament.

"To (still) be here as a host city after the moment of crisis we had to face is great," said Reginaldo Cordeiro, the city official in charge of World Cup preparations.

"We have worked daily to accelerate the construction schedule to recover lost time."

Cordeiro and Mario Celso Cunha, the state co-ordinator for the World Cup, said FIFA's threats to take away the four scheduled games at the Arena da Baixada had led to an overhaul of the work schedule and a new financing model for the stadium, owned by the Atletico Paranaense club.

"It was good that (FIFA general secretary) Jerome Valcke came and tugged at our ears. It was good for us to wake up," Cordeiro said of the threat issued by soccer's world governing body at the start of the year.

However, the major confessional on events at Curitiba came from Atlético's president Mario Celso Petraglia, who delivered a 20-minute defence of the events around the stadium since the city was named one of the 12 World Cup host venues.

"Our journey had its rights and wrongs. Curitiba tried to find a different solution to the other 11 host cities, who had public money for their construction.

"We already had a basis for our stadium but all the requirements that FIFA have for hosting World Cup matches were not properly assessed by us," he told a news conference in Florianópolis, where FIFA are hosting their pre-World Cup workshop this week.

The stadium, with a capacity close to 42,000, was built in 1999 but planned major renovations for the World Cup.

"We were delayed by the bureaucratic process in Brazil, it took the whole of 2012 to approve funds. We started work last January but we tried to use small contractors. We recognise now that we did not have a realistic view of what we would have ahead of us."

Four matches are scheduled to take place at the stadium in Curitiba: Iran v Nigeria on June 16, Honduras v Ecuador on June 20, Australia v Spain on June 23 and Algeria v Russia on June 26. The venue will not be used after the opening group stage.

Alexandre Pato captured signing a contract with his new club side, giants São Paulo from cross-city rivals Corinthians.

RONALDO GIVES ADVICE

At a World Cup warm-up event at the Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro, double World Cup winner Ronaldo gave his own insight into what it takes to be successful at the biggest tournament a player can feature in.

Speaking to reporters at an event, Ronaldo said: "In the World Cup every opponent is tough. We've seen in many cups you get past the first stage, but then the games get more difficult."

"Especially here in Brazil, with the pressure the Brazilian team will have. We have to take each game as if it were a final."

Ronaldo - not to be confused by his Portuguese namesake, then went on to praise the reconstruction of one of the world's most famous venues: "I think it's great. It gives an even more beautiful legacy to this World Cup. The Maracanã is a spectacular and beautiful place ."

PATO SPEAKS ABOUT NEW CLUB

São Paulo's new signing, Alexandre Pato was presented to the media today and had some strong words for his critics.

The Brazilian national team forward blasted those that have accused him of not trying hard enough and admits he can not wait to play for his new side.

Pato was quoted by UOL Esporte saying: "Most think certain things about me, but I am a very hard worker.

I've always been the first to arrive and last to leave. I left home too early and learned many things. I left my mother crying in the road asking me a thousand times if I wanted to go away.

"In victory I feel the happiest guy in the world, and defeat I feel nothing.

"I'm working a lot and I think most have not seen what I did in my former club, I worked hard. I can not wait to play in the São Paulo shirt and to show my worth."

Due to Pato playing five times for Corinthians in the Paulistão, he can't play for his new side in the State Championship.

"I can not wait to wear that shirt in the game.

"Each workout is a game for me I'll work very, very strong because I want to make history in São Paulo."

The earliest he can make his debut will be on March 12th in the Brazil Cup. When he does start playing Pato hopes to make history for São Paulo.

Champs Hit for Four, Eight is Enough for Heart

Tomasz Ng

Foxtel National Youth League

The title may have already been decided, but there was still plenty of action to talk about in Round 16 of the National Youth League.

Melbourne Heart stole the headlines with an 8-1 romp over the AIS at Epping Stadium, featuring a hat trick to Maltese international striker Michael Mifsud.

In truth the forward should have added to his tally, having missed a few gilt edged chances, but Heart were too strong for the AIS on the day.

Marcus Schroen opened the scoring before Mifsud's hat trick made it 4-0 at the break.

The AIS did manage to pull one back thanks to a cracking effort from Darcy Madden, but four goals to Alexander Dao, Stipo Andrijasevic, Joseph Katebian and Paulo Retre in the last 20 minutes for Heart buried the visitors.

It was a second convincing win in as many weeks for Heart, having beaten Perth Glory 5-1 the week before.

The Glory have been woeful for most of the season, but effectively saved themselves from getting the wooden spoon after beating Central Coast Mariners 3-0 away from home.

Central Coast only had themselves to blame however, receiving red cards to Brent Griffiths for a studs up challenge in the penalty area, and to Nathan Verity for two bookable offences.

Adrian Zahra put the Glory in front from the spot after Griffith's poor challenge, and Perth had to battle against a stubborn Mariners defence for much of the second half.

Eventually, Gian Albano made it two nil in the 87th minute before Zahra polished off the result with a curling effort from outside the area to make it 3-0.

Champions! Sydney FC players receive the NYL trophy after clinching the title last weekend. Photos: MICHAEL SWIBEL

It was a disappointing result for the Mariners, who simply look unable to win at the moment.

Further up the F3 freeway, Newcastle were unable to hold onto a 2-0 lead against a Melbourne Victory side depleted by call-ups to the senior side's AFC Champions League campaign.

It all looked to be going smoothly in the first half for the Jets, as they scored through Radovan Pavicevic and Kale Bradbery.

But the Victory had other ideas and came back strongly after the break, and Anthony Proia secured a brace to ensure the visitors did not go home empty handed.

The result was well received by Victory youth coach Darren Davies, and his next opponents will be Adelaide United, fresh off a 4-1 thumping of the newly crowned champions Sydney FC.

Anthony Bouzanis was put to work in the early stages of the game, making a couple of good saves before Ryan Kitto and Bruce Kamau scored before 10 minutes had even elapsed.

Donovan Pollock then scored either side of half time to take the scoreline to 4-0, stunning the Sky Blues who were being outclassed.

Chris Naumoff did grab a consolation goal for Sydney, but in the end it was an uncharacteristically poor performance from the Sky Blues.

Finally there was a mid-table battle between Brisbane Roar and Western Sydney Wanderers that ended 2-1 in favour of the Queenslanders.

Brandon Borrello put the Roar ahead with a penalty in the 37th minute, before a slaloming run from Jake McGing saw him equalise for the Wanderers.

It was to be the home side's day however, when Jai Ingham produced a sumptuous goal to win the match for Brisbane, giving them nothing more than bragging rights.

The season is almost at it's conclusion, and with the major honours sewn up, the next two weeks should see teams play with more freedom as they look to end the season on a high.

SFC coach Steve Corica and staff with the NYL trophy.

Next Round

Saturday, 22 February 2014
Central Coast Mariners v AIS
Tuggerah
KO 11:00AM

Saturday, 22 February 2014
Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar
Epping Soccer Stadium
KO 3:00PM

Sunday, 23 February 2014
Perth Glory v Wanderers
Intiga Stadium
KO 1:00 PM

Sunday, 23 February 2014
Melbourne Victory v Adelaide United
Lakeside Stadium
KO 2:30PM

Sunday, 23 February 2014
Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets
WIN Jubilee Oval, Kogarah
KO 3:00PM

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Sydney FC	16	13	1	2	48	22	26	40
2 Newcastle Jets	16	9	4	3	41	27	14	31
3 Melbourne Victory	16	8	3	5	44	33	11	27
4 Adelaide United	16	8	3	5	25	29	6	27
5 Brisbane Roar	16	6	5	5	36	36	0	23
6 Wanderers FC	16	7	1	8	35	28	7	22
7 Melbourne Heart FC	16	6	4	6	29	24	5	22
8 AIS	16	5	2	9	31	47	-16	17
9 Perth Glory	16	4	0	12	29	62	-33	12
10 CC Mariners	16	1	3	12	18	38	-20	6

Results

Central Coast Mariners Youth 0
Perth Glory Youth 3 (Zahra 45' (pen), 90+2', Albano 87')

Adelaide United 4 (Pollock 30, 49, Kitto 8, Kamau 10)
Sydney FC 1 (Naumof 90+2)

Brisbane Roar 2 (Borrello 37, Ingham 58)
Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (McGing 45+3)

Melbourne Heart 8 (Schroen 5', Mifsud 17' 34' 45', Dao 73', Andrijasevic 81', Katebian 89', Retre 90+3')
Australian Institute of Sport 1 (Madden 71')

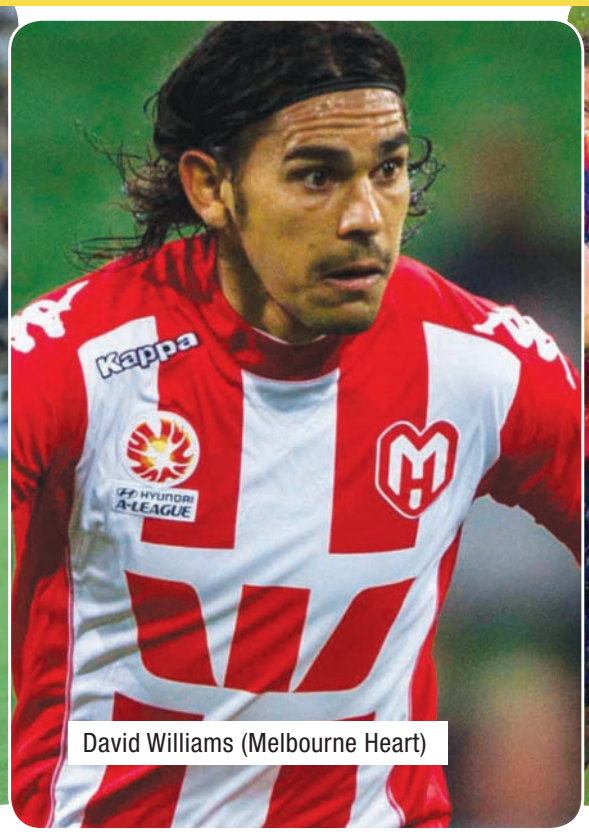
Newcastle Jets 2 (Pavicevic 13, Bradbery 45+1)
Melbourne Victory 2 (Proia 49, 80)

Photos: LIVE PIXELS

By Damir Kulas

Socceroo Hopefuls Dreaming of Brazil

Luke Brattan (Brisbane Roar)


David Williams (Melbourne Heart)

Adam Taggart (Newcastle Jets)

With the World Cup in Brazil only months away, the competition for a spot in Ange Postecoglou's squad is starting to hot up more than a day basking on the Copacabana beach. GW's **Damir Kulas** looks at ten of the current best, who are making a strong claim to be on the flight to Rio, come June.

Terry Antonis (20)

Sydney FC, 3 caps (0 goals)

The talented youngster's return to the Sky Blues starting eleven from a lengthy spell on the sidelines through injury couldn't have come quick enough for Frank Farina's men. The ex-Socceroos coach banishment of Nick Carle and Matt Thompson left a huge hole in the heart of Sydney FC's midfield and the Olyroos captain was quickly promoted into the first team for the first time in eleven months. He impressed with an astute performance which was rounded off with a spectacular winner from outside the box. If Sydney can turn their fortunes around and get onto a winning streak, then Antonis will surely play a huge part in that and maybe even put himself in the reckoning for not only a big move to Europe but also a World Cup spot.

Luke Brattan (23)

Brisbane Roar, Uncapped

The English-born midfielder has been the revelation of the season with a string of outstanding performances in the heart of Brisbane's midfield. Brattan made his debut for the Roar way back in the 2009 friendly against Celtic but only started to cement a place in the starting eleven with the appointment of Mike Mulvey in December 2012. This season his game has been characterised by his precision passing, strong work ethic and spectacular strikes which have made him the best Australian player in the league and a crucial factor in the Roar's rise to the top of the table. A move to Europe or Asia next season surely beckons next for the 23 year old, a spot in the Socceroos squad for the World Cup is also not beyond him.

Eddy Bosnar (33)

Central Coast Mariners, Uncapped

Given his wealth of experience and quality it is hard to believe that new Mariners signing has never played for the Socceroos. After playing for the Breakers, Spirit and Sydney United in the NSL, the centre back played in the top leagues of Croatia, Austria, Holland, Japan, Korea and China as well as a short stint and unsuccessful stint with Everton where he saw no game time. With Lucas Neill still yet to find a club side and Rhys Williams almost certainly out through injury, Ange Postecoglou is short of defensive options and this may well just be Bosnar's perfect opportunity to debut for his country. The 33 year old also poses an immense threat from free kicks with bullet like shot however age could count against him.

Bruce Djite (26)

Adelaide United, 9 caps (0 goals)

The tall striker has often in the past been touted as the player the Socceroos have been missing up front since the international retirement of Mark Viduka back in 2007. However a failed spell in Turkey, coupled with injuries and a loss in form saw the former Marconi junior fall behind the pecking order. It appeared Djite was even on the outer at Adelaide after a disappointed first two seasons back at the club however Josep Gombau has been able to bring out the best out of Djite who has impressed with 4 goals in 10 starts this season while his build up play and holding up of the ball have been crucial in Adelaide sky rocketing to third on the A-League ladder. If the Reds and Djite continue their good form then maybe the American born striker can finally kick-start a career blighted by underachievement with a ticket on the plane to Brazil.

Tomi Juric (22)

Western Sydney Wanderers, 3 caps (1 goal)

Almost a year ago the Wanderers hitman was a virtual unknown within Australian football circles. However a short but impressive stint with Adelaide earned him a call up to the East Asian Cup where he performed well and in that time also earned a deal with Tony Popovic's side. He scored a crucial late equaliser on debut against the Mariners in the Grand Final Rematch before a stunning performance in Round 4 against Adelaide where he scored a double in a 2-1 victory at Wanderland. Injury then caused him to spend a few weeks on the sidelines before scoring a stunner on return against the Mariners again. This has led many to compare Juric with you guessed it, Viduka as well, but Popovic and assistant Ante Milicic are determined in keeping the young striker grounded in order to get the best out of their number nine.

Aaron Mooy (23)

Western Sydney Wanderers, 3 caps (3 goals)

After failing to set the world on fire in Europe, first with Bolton and then St.Mirren, Mooy was unveiled as one of the Wanderers inaugural signings and has not look back since. His tireless running, efficient pass rate and chance creation has made him a fan favourite at the Wanderers while also making him one of the league's best midfield players. He also poses a threat to opposing sides with his set pieces as the Jets found out a few weeks back when he scored a stunning free kick against them. Great performances for the national side in the East Asian Cup campaign, which included three goals in the three games he played, have not harmed the Melbourne Heart/City bound Socceroos future aspirations.

Adam Taggart (20)

Newcastle Jets, 4 caps (3 goals)

The former Perth Glory striker has enjoyed a breakthrough season in the Hunter where his impressive total of 9 goals in 17 games has made him a serious contender for a spot in the Socceroos side for Brazil. After struggling to make an impact in the shadow of Emile Heskey and Ryan Griffiths last season, Taggart has become the go to man in the Jets forward line which otherwise is lacking in confidence. He has impressed with a series of spectacular performances including a hat trick (with all three goals coming from outside the box) early on in the season against the Heart and braces against the Roar and Wanderers as well. Added to this is the fact that he has performed well for the Socceroos already in the 2013 EAFF East Asian Cup qualifying rounds and tournament proper.

James Troisi (25)

Melbourne Victory, 9 caps (1 goal)

The Adelaide-born attacking midfielder has impressed since returning to Australia with the Victory becoming the joint top scorer in the league at the moment. After struggling for game time in Serie A with Atalanta (where he was co-owned by the giant that is Juventus), Troisi has adapted well to his new surroundings in Melbourne and become a constant threat in front of goal for Kevin Muscat's side. However as his coach has already stressed out, the former Newcastle United man needs more consistency in his game in order to be considered a chance for Brazil. Many believed his time in becoming a permanent fixture in the green and gold had come in 2011 with a couple of excellent performances for the Socceroos, but he didn't featured much after that.

Danny Vukovic (28)

Perth Glory, Uncapped

The former Mariners custodian has arguably been the standout goalkeeper in the A-League this season with a string of match-winning performances which have led some to suggest that Vukovic should be taken to the World Cupas third choice behind Ryan and Langerak. He has certainly helped his chances by adding a touch of maturity and leadership to his game as well as greater consistency. A spot in the squad for Brazil will somewhat complete a little retribution for Vukovic who was banned from going to the Olympics with the Olyroos in 2008 after he controversially slapped referee Mark Shield's arm in the dying stages of the 2008 A-League Grand Final. This week should also see him become only the second player behind Matt Thompson, to play 200 A-League games.

David Williams (25)

Melbourne Heart, 2 caps (0 goals)

The former North Queensland Fury striker has impressed for JVS's resurgent Heart outfit with 5 goals in the past three games including two memorable late winners. Often struggling with inconsistency, Williams has great pace and dribbling that once made former Roar and Gold Coast United coach Miron Bleiberg describe him as the best young Aussie prodigy since Harry Kewell whilst also trialing with Liverpool. If he and Heart continue their good run of form and launch an assault for the finals, then Williams may well have cast himself in the reckoning for a surprising spot in the squad for Brazil.

Bruce Djite (Adelaide Utd)

MELBOURNE HEART

NICHOLAS KALMAR

MELBOURNE HEART FC

Photo: LIVE PIXELS

GOAL! WEEKLY

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Italian Serie A

Luca Cetta

Parma rekindling memories of the golden days

Negativity surrounded Parma's trip to Bergamo, but Roberto Donadoni's men responded emphatically. Their run of form is revitalising the flames of yesteryear.

It wasn't a polished performance by any means. It's fair to say that bottom club Catania had the better of the opportunities. Still, Roberto Donadoni couldn't believe what he was hearing emanate from the Stadio Ennio Tardini stands at full-time: his Parma side was whistled and jeered from the pitch.

"It's a shame if some people in the crowd were not satisfied with our performance," said the boss afterwards. A goalless draw it may have been, but it comes amid Parma's best run in years. Donadoni's side has not lost since early November. Five subsequent wins and six draws put the Ducali firmly entrenched in the battle for the final Europa League place.

Parma have not enjoyed an unbeaten spell like this since 1997. Between the tail end of the 1996-97 campaign and the start of the following term, they amassed a 12-match unbeaten stretch. They finished runners-up to Juventus in 1996-97, then slid to sixth. During the 1990s, Parma regularly lifted silverware and competed in Europe.

Promoted to Serie A in 1990, Parma's first trophy two seasons later – the Coppa Italia – would usher in a golden era. Two more domestic cups followed in the next decade, as did two UEFA Cup's and the European Cup Winners Cup. The Tardini played host to some of football's biggest names: Gianluigi Buffon, Gianfranco Zola, Faustino Asprilla, Hristo Stoichkov, Hernan Crespo, Lilian Thuram and Fabio Cannavaro, to name only some.

Since the fall of benefactors Parmalat in 2003, the club has struggled to match those heady heights. Parma even had a short stint in Serie B. When Donadoni took over in January 2012, the team had won just five games that term. He led them to eighth. Last season was similarly impressive, this time tenth.

Eager to build on his two top-half finishes, the Gialloblu added quality to their squad. At the top of the list, Antonio Cassano. The supremely talented attacker has responded by offering a starring role for the team this season. This is in addition to signings Walter Gargano and Mattia Cassani, plus those already at Parma: goalkeeper Antonio Mirante, veteran defender Alessandro Lucarelli, Marco Parolo – a reported January target for Milan – Jonathan Biabiany and Amauri, all key elements to the line-up.

Still, it appeared Donadoni had been hurt by those boos. Corriere dello Sport reported he took it quite hard, while rumours emerged that the Coach is thinking about leaving the club at the end of the season.

The home draw with bottom club Catania ended a four-match winning run and so they had to bounce back away at Atalanta. The Bergamo club are usually strong at home. Until Round 24 only four clubs had recorded more than their seven home victories, as they welcomed Parma to a rain-soaked Stadio Atleti Azzurri d'Italia. Their last home contest was a resounding 3-0 victory over Napoli.

The home side felt they should have had a penalty in the opening minutes, only for Parma to take the lead shortly after. On his Ducali debut, January signing Cristian Molinaro saw a deflected effort beat Andrea Consigli.

Atalanta were the more dangerous side in the first half, although Parma had their chances too. When the visitors did extend the lead in the 74th minute, they were given a helping hand by an old friend. Yohan Benalouane left Parma for Atalanta last month and here chested a cross back to Consigli, only the goalkeeper wasn't expecting it and so it ended in the back of the net.

Just three minutes later Cassano surprised Consigli to score a free kick from a tight angle. Another debutant then completed the rout. Ezequiel Schelotto – a former Atalanta midfielder – slid in to finish a Parolo cross. The 4-0 result proved an emphatic response to the negativity during the week.

Colantuono felt Atalanta played better than in their win over Napoli, while lamenting the early penalty non-call. On the other hand, Parma are now just three points behind the final Europa League spot after extending their unbeaten streak to 12. Donadoni says his side can make a charge for the continent. "We made up for our performance against Catania and are in a position that allows us to fight for Europe. Now we can fight it out with anyone."

After a decade of struggle, the Gialloblu are once again battling for a spot in Europe. And with a band of players performing out of their skin, it's not above them to do as Donadoni said and challenge for fifth. With it comes the carrot of a place in Europe for the first time since 2004-05.

Elsewhere, it is as you were at the top of the table. Juventus, Roma and Napoli were all comfortable in respective wins. The Bianconeri downed Chievo 3-1, while Roma put three past Sampdoria. Napoli made it three wins in a week between the League and Coppa Italia with a 2-0 success at Sassuolo.

Inter continued their recent revival as they defeated Fiorentina on Saturday. Rodrigo Palacio put the Nerazzurri ahead, only for Juan Cuadrado to equalise. However, Mauro Icardi netted his first goal since September to give Inter their second win in succession. City rivals Milan also triumphed, with a scorching Mario Balotelli goal the difference against Bologna.

Parma turn back the clock with a 4-0 win away to Atalanta

ITALY Serie A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Juventus	24	20	3	1	59	19	+40	63	W D W D W
2 Roma	23	16	6	1	48	11	+37	54	W D W W W
3 Napoli	24	15	5	4	49	27	+22	50	W W L D D
4 Fiorentina	24	13	5	6	43	26	+17	44	L W L D W
5 Internazionale	24	10	9	5	42	28	+14	39	W W L D L
6 Parma	23	9	9	5	36	27	+9	36	W D W W W
7 Torino	24	9	9	6	39	31	+8	36	W L D W W
8 Hellas Verona	24	11	3	10	40	40	+0	36	L D W L L
9 Milan	24	8	8	8	37	35	+2	32	W L D W W
10 Lazio	24	8	8	8	30	32	-2	32	L D W D W
11 Genoa	24	8	7	9	27	31	-4	31	D W L D W
12 Sampdoria	24	7	7	10	27	35	-8	28	L W W D L
13 Udinese	24	8	3	13	28	35	-7	27	D W W L L
14 Atalanta	24	8	3	13	24	36	-12	27	L L W L W
15 Cagliari	24	5	9	10	22	34	-12	24	L L W L L
16 Bologna	24	4	9	11	22	40	-18	21	L W L D D
17 Livorno	24	5	5	14	24	42	-18	20	W L D W L
18 Catania	24	4	7	13	19	41	-22	19	W D D D L
19 Chievo	24	4	6	14	17	35	-18	18	L L L D L
20 Sassuolo	24	4	5	15	23	51	-28	17	L L L L L

Latest Results	Next Match
Milan 1 - 0 Bologna	Bologna v Roma
Fiorentina 1 - 2 Inter	Livorno v Verona
Catania 3 - 1 Lazio	Udinese v Atalanta
Juventus 3 - 1 Chievo	Inter v Cagliari
Cagliari 1 - 2 Livorno	Chievo v Catania
Sassuolo 0 - 2 Napoli	Sampdoria v Milan
Atalanta 0 - 4 Parma	Juventus v Torino
Genoa 3 - 3 Udinese	Lazio v Sassuolo
Roma 3 - 0 Sampdoria	Parma v Fiorentina
Verona 1 - 3 Torino	Napoli v Genoa

One To Watch This Weekend...

The Derby della Mole pits Juventus against local rivals Torino. Both sides are enjoying a recent purple patch, but Toro are looking to end a near two-decade drought against Juve. They have not tasted success in the past 15 editions.

Spanish La Liga

Pepe Lopez

Barcelona Lead Spanish 2013-14 Euro Challenge

Barcelona took 1st leg honours in their much hyped up UEFA Champions League Round of 16 fixture against England's Manchester City. The fixture was built up as a clash of European Titans, given the sheer size of the 2 club's individual and collective player wages and depth of foreign squad players. In fact, Manchester City boast 4 Spanish players in their squad, Alvaro Negredo, Javi Garcia, Jesus Navas and David Silva.

Manchester City did have cause to feel somewhat aggrieved, already missing star forward Sergio Aguero through a hamstring injury, Barcelona's Leo Messi capitalised on a soft penalty decision awarded by Swedish Referee Jonas Eriksson after an hour of play. After being reduced to 10 men, Manchester City then conceded a second away goal in the final minute of play, Barca's Dani Alves found space in the Manchester City penalty area and cooly slotted the ball between the legs of City Goalkeeper Joe Hart, to make the final score 0-2.

Former Real Madrid, Malaga and current Manchester City Coach Manual Pellegrini was scathing in his assessment of the match referee and will likely be disciplined by UEFA for this post match outburst;

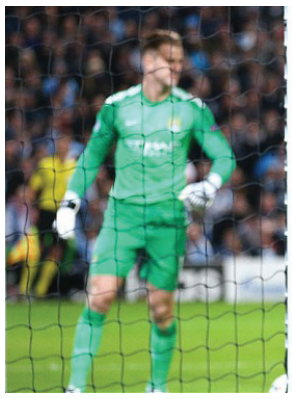
"The referee did not have any control of the game. He decided for Barcelona from the beginning to the end. I think it was not a good idea to put a referee from Sweden in such an important match and a referee who made a mistake against Barcelona in the group stages."

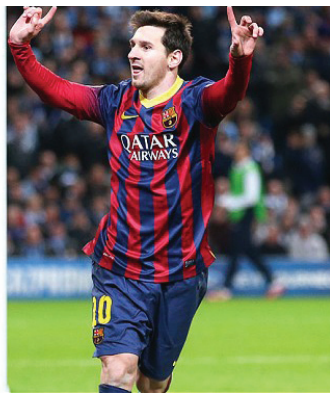
"From the beginning I felt the referee was not impartial to both teams. The referee decided the game. Before the penalty, it was a foul on Navas when he was three metres from the play so he could see it. And it was not a penalty, it was outside the box. Playing 40 minutes with one player less is difficult against Barcelona but we played well with one player less and in the last minute they scored the second goal."

The 2 teams will complete their Round of 16 clash, with the 2nd leg being hosted at Barcelona's Camp Nou in 2 weeks time. Spain's other 2 Champions League challengers Atletico Madrid take on Italy's AC Milan, whilst Real Madrid face Germany's Schalke 04. Spain's Barcelona and Real Madrid are now 2nd and 3rd favourites with betting agencies to win this season's UEFA Champions League, behind Germany's Bayern Munich.

Meanwhile Spain's Valencia will travel to political hot-spot Kyiv in Ukraine to face Dynamo Kyiv in the UEFA Europa League Round of 32 1st leg. Valencia have appealed to UEFA to have the game suspended whilst there is much political upheaval in Ukraine, UEFA will leave a decision on the game until Wednesday morning Ukrainian time to make a decision on the game, to be played on Thursday Ukrainian time.

Ukraine is a country divided historically between the European West and the Russian East. Western Ukraine has been ruled in the past century by the Austria and Hungary as well as Poland, whilst the East has long been under Russian influence. The capital city Kyiv is as close to the middle of the country as you can practically get. It is here in this city that for over the past 3 months West leaning Ukrainians have protested their President's Viktor Yanukovych's decision to ignore an offer to accept a European Union Association Membership in preference for financial incentives from Russia. The protesters have little concern for immediate finances, and their ideals are as much based on history as they are for the future. The entry gate to Dynamo Kyiv's football ground is exactly where the Ukrainian uprising has taken place over the past 3 months.





Leo Messi looks like he's back to his best as Barcelona put one foot in the quarter finals

SPAIN La Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Barcelona	24	19	3	2	69	17	+52	60	W W L W D
2 Real Madrid	24	19	3	2	68	24	+44	60	W W D W W
3 Atlético Madrid	24	19	3	2	59	16	+43	60	W L W W D
4 Athletic Club	24	13	5	6	43	30	+13	44	L D D W W
5 Real Sociedad	24	11	7	6	43	34	+9	40	W D L W D
6 Villarreal	24	12	4	8	44	29	+15	40	L L W L W
7 Sevilla	24	8	8	8	42	41	+1	32	D L L L D
8 Valencia	24	9	5	10	36	35	+1	32	D W W D D
9 Espanyol	24	9	5	10	28	30	-2	32	W W L D W
10 Levante	24	8	8	8	23	30	-7	32	W D D W D
11 Celta de Vigo	24	8	5	11	31	35	-4	29	W D W W L
12 Granada	24	8	3	13	21	30	-9	27	W L L L D
13 Elche	24	6	8	10	22	34	-12	26	D D W L W
14 Osasuna	24	7	5	12	21	37	-16	26	D W L L D
15 Getafe	24	7	4	13	22	39	-17	25	L L D L D
16 Almería	24	7	4	13	24	42	-18	25	L W L W L
17 Málaga	24	6	6	12	23	34	-11	24	L L W L D
18 Real Valladolid	24	4	9	11	26	42	-16	21	L D D W L
19 Rayo Vallecano	24	6	2	16	25	58	-33	20	L W D L L
20 Real Betis	24	3	5	16	20	53	-33	14	L L W L L

Latest Results	Next Match
Elche 0 - 0 Osasuna	Real Valladolid v Levante
Atl Madrid 3 - 0 Valladolid	Real Madrid v Elche
Levante 1 - 0 Almería	Celta de Vigo v Getafe
Barcelona 6 - 0 R Vallecano	Real Sociedad v Barcelona
Villarreal 0 - 2 Celta Vigo	Almería v Málaga
Granada 1 - 0 Real Betis	Rayo Vallecano v Sevilla
Getafe 0 - 3 Real Madrid	Real Betis v Athletic Club
Athletic Club 1 - 2 Espanyol	Valencia v Granada
Sevilla 0 - 0 Valencia	Osasuna v Atlético Madrid
Málaga 0 - 1 Real Sociedad	Espanyol v Villarreal

One To Watch This Weekend...

Reigning La Liga Champions Barcelona will travel to the Basque Country to tackle Real Sociedad, Fox Sports 2 will broadcast this match Live Sunday February 23, 2014, 6am AEST.

La Liga challengers Atletico Madrid will also travel to the Basque Country to play against Osasuna, Fox Sports 1 will broadcast this match Live Monday February 24, 2014, 7am AEST.

CROATIA 1.HNL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Dinamo Zagreb	21	15	4	2	40	15	+25	49	W W W W D
2 Hajduk Split	22	12	8	2	39	20	+19	44	W W D D D
3 Lokomotiva Zagreb	22	12	3	7	37	30	+7	39	W W L D W
4 Rijeka	21	10	8	3	37	19	+18	38	L W D D W
5 Split	22	8	7	7	23	21	+2	31	L L L D W
6 Istra 1961	22	8	5	9	32	34	-2	29	L W L W D
7 Zadar	22	6	5	11	19	34	-15	23	W W L D L
8 Slaven Koprivnica	22	3	9	10	25	33	-8	18	L L D D D
9 Osijek	22	3	6	13	19	45	-26	15	W L D L D
10 Hrvatski Drago…	22	1	7	14	17	37	-20	10	L L D L L

SCOTLAND SPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Celtic	25	22	3	0	60	12	+48	69	W W W W W
2 Aberdeen	25	15	3	7	36	22	+14	48	W D L W W
3 Motherwell	24	15	2	7	38	33	+5	47	W D L W W
4 Dundee United	25	10	8	7	43	30	+13	38	W D L D D
5 Inverness CT	23	11	5	7	29	21	+8	38	D L W D L
6 St. Johnstone	24	9	5	10	31	29	+2	32	L W D W L
7 Hibernian	25	8	7	10	23	28	-5	31	W L L L D
8 Kilmarnock	26	7	5	14	32	44	-12	26	L D L W D
9 St. Mirren	26	6	6	14	24	42	-18	24	L L L D W
10 Ross County	25	6	4	15	30	45	-15	22	L D L W D
11 Partick Thistle	26	4	10	12	25	43	-18	22	L D D L D
12 Heart of Midlo…	26	5	6	15	22	44	-22	6	D W W D L

SERBIA Super Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Partizan	15	10	3	2	28	12	+16	33	W W W W L
2 Crvena Zvezda	15	10	2	3	30	15	+15	32	W W W W W
3 Jagodina	15	8	3	4	19	12	+7	27	W W W L W
4 Radnički Niš	15	6	6	3	16	10	+6	24	L W L W W
5 Vojvodina	15	6	6	3	20	17	+3	24	L W L D D
6 Novi Pazar	15	7	3	5	18	16	+2	24	W L D W W
7 Čukarički	15	6	4	5	14	13	+1	22	L L D W L
8 Spartak Subotica	15	6	3	6	12	19	-7	21	D L W L W
9 Napredak	15	4	5	6	19	18	+1	17	D L W L L
10 OFK Beograd	15	5	2	8	17	24	-7	17	D L L W W
11 Voždovac	15	4	4	7	13	17	-4	16	L W L L L
12 Radnički Kragu…	15	4	4	7	15	21	-6	16	L W D L D
13 Sloboda Užice	15	4	4	7	13	19	-6	16	W L L W L
14 Javor Ivanjica	15	3	6	6	14	19	-5	15	D L D D L
15 Donji Srem	15	3	5	7	15	19	-4	14	D W W L L
16 Rad Beograd	15	3	2	10	6	18	-12	11	D L L L W

GERMANY Bundesliga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	21	19	2	0	57	9	+48	59	W W W W W
2 Bayer Leverkusen	21	14	1	6	38	22	+16	43	L W W L L
3 Borussia Dortmund	21	13	3	5	51	24	+27	42	W W W D L
4 Schalke 04	21	12	4	5	41	30	+11	40	W W W W D
5 Wolfsburg	21	11	3	7	35	25	+10	36	W W L L D
6 Borussia M'gla…	21	10	4	7	37	26	+11	34	D L L L D
7 Mainz 05	21	10	3	8	31	35	-4	33	W L W W W
8 Hertha BSC	21	9	4	8	32	26	+6	31	L W L L W
9 Augsburg	21	9	4	8	30	30	+0	31	L W W D D
10 Hoffenheim	21	6	7	8	44	44	+0	25	W D W L L
11 Hannover 96	21	7	3	11	29	37	-8	24	L L W W L
12 Eintracht Fran…	21	5	6	10	24	38	-14	21	L W L W D
13 Werder Bremen	21	5	6	10	25	46	-21	21	D L L D W
14 Nürnberg	21	3	11	7	25	36	-11	20	W L W W D
15 Stuttgart	21	5	4	12	34	45	-11	19	L L L L L
16 Freiburg	21	4	6	11	20	40	-20	18	L D L W W
17 Hamburger SV	21	4	4	13	35	51	-16	16	L L L L L
18 Eintracht Brau…	21	4	3	14	15	39	-24	15	W L L D W

HOLLAND Eredivisie

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Ajax	23	14	6	3	47	20	+27	48	D W D W W
2 Twente	22	12	7	3	51	23	+28	43	L W W W D
3 Feyenoord	23	13	4	6	51	32	+19	43	W W D L W
4 Vitesse	23	12	7	4	46	29	+17	43	D L D D W
5 Heerenveen	23	10	6	7	51	40	+11	36	W L W L D
6 PSV	23	10	5	8	41	31	+10	35	W W L W L
7 AZ	23	10	3	10	37	36	+1	33	L W W L W
8 PEC Zwolle	23	8	8	7	34	30	+4	32	D W W W L
9 NAC Breda	23	8	5	10	35	39	-4	29	W D W L L
10 Heracles	23	8	5	10	33	38	-5	29	D W L W L
11 Groningen	22	7	7	8	39	40	-1	28	L L L D W
12 Go Ahead Eagles	23	7	7	9	34	48	-14	28	W D D L L
13 RKC Waalwijk	23	6	8	9	36	41	-5	26	W D W L D
14 Utrecht	23	7	4	12	32	48	-16	25	L L D L L
15 Cambuur	23	6	5	12	24	33	-9	23	D L L W W
16 Roda JC	23	5	7	11	35	50	-15	22	L L L W D
17 NEC	23	4	9	10	36	58	-22	21	L D D D W
18 ADO Den Haag	23	6	3	14	25	51	-26	21	D L L W L

TURKEY Süper Lig

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Fenerbahçe	21	15	2	4	48	25	+23	47	W L L W W
2 Beşiktaş	21	12	6	3	39	21	+18	42	W W W W D
3 Galatasaray	21	11	8	2	39	19	+20	41	D W W D W
4 Sivasspor	21	11	3	7	38	28	+10	36	D W L W W
5 Karabükspor	21	9	7	5	24	21	+3	34	D W W D L
6 Eskişehirspor	21	9	4	8	27	24	+3	31	D L W L L
7 Akhisar Beledi…	21	9	4	8	29	28	+1	31	L W W L W
8 Kasımpaşa	21	8	6	7	32	28	+4	30	L L L D D
9 Trabzonspor	21	8	6	7	30	28	+2	30	D L D D W
10 Bursaspor	21	7	7	7	23	28	-5	28	L D L W D
11 Konyaspor	21	8	2	11	31	32	-1	26	L W W L W
12 Gaziantepspor	21	7	4	10	25	38	-13	25	L L W D D
13 Gençlerbirliği	21	7	3	11	23	27	-4	24	L L L W W
14 Antalyaspor	21	5	8	8	26	28	-2	23	D D L W L
15 Elazığspor	21	7	1	13	28	45	-17	22	W W L W W
16 Rizespor	21	5	6	10	25	30	-5	21	W D D L L
17 Kayseri Erciye…	21	4	4	13	18	35	-17	16	W D L L L
18 Kayserispor	21	3	7	11	14	34	-20	16	W L D L L

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Leicester City	31	21	5	5	56	32	+24	68	D D W W W
2 Burnley	31	16	12	3	47	25	+22	60	D W W D D
3 Derby County	31	17	7	7	59	40	+19	58	W W D W D
4 Queens Park Ra…	30	16	8	6	37	24	+13	56	L L D W W
5 Nottingham Forest	31	14	13	4	52	32	+20	55	D W D W W
6 Reading	31	14	8	9	50	36	+14	50	W L W W L
7 Wigan Athletic	30	13	7	10	35	28	+7	46	W W L W D
8 Brighton & Hov…	30	12	10	8	32	25	+7	46	W W L D L
9 Ipswich Town	31	11	12	8	43	34	+9	45	D D W D W
10 Blackburn Rovers	30	11	10	9	37	35	+2	43	D W D D L
11 Watford	31	10	12	9	44	37	+7	42	D W W D W
12 Leeds United	30	12	6	12	43	39	+4	42	L W W D L
13 Huddersfield Town	31	11	7	13	40	42	-2	40	W L W L L
14 Middlesbrough	31	9	12	10	41	36	+5	39	L D D D L
15 AFC Bournemouth	30	9	9	12	37	50	-13	36	D D L W D
16 Blackpool	31	8	11	12	28	42	-14	35	D D L L D
17 Sheffield Wedn…	30	7	12	11	36	38	-2	33	L L W W D
18 Birmingham City	31	8	9	14	37	40	-3	33	L L W D L
19 Bolton Wanderers	31	6	12	13	35	49	-14	30	D L D L L
20 Doncaster Rovers	31	7	9	15	28	47	-19	30	D L D W D
21 Millwall	31	6	10	15	31	59	-28	28	D D L L D
22 Charlton Athletic	28	5	9	14	23	38	-15	24	L L L L D
23 Barnsley	30	4	11	15	29	51	-22	23	L D D L D
24 Yeovil Town	30	5	7	18	26	47	-21	22	D D L L L

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Brentford	30	20	6	4	54	28	+26	66	W D W W D
2 Leyton Orient	32	19	7	6	64	32	+32	64	W D L L L
3 Wolverhampton …	30	19	7	4	51	20	+31	64	W W W W W
4 Preston North End	31	15	12	4	41	29	+12	57	D D W W D
5 Rotherham United	30	15	9	6	53	39	+14	54	W W W D W
6 Peterborough U…	30	15	4	11	50	41	+9	49	D W L W W
7 Walsall	31	12	11	8	36	29	+7	47	D L D W D
8 Swindon Town	31	13	6	12	49	41	+8	45	D W L D W
9 Milton Keynes Dons	31	12	7	12	46	43	+3	43	D W W L L
10 Port Vale	31	13	4	14	43	46	-3	43	L D W L L
11 Bradford City	31	8	14	9	42	38	+4	38	W L D L D
12 Gillingham	32	11	5	16	42	54	-12	38	L W L W L
13 Coventry City	30	13	8	9	58	53	+5	37	L L W L D
14 Carlisle United	31	10	6	15	36	52	-16	36	W W L L W
15 Colchester United	28	8	11	9	35	36	-1	35	D L W W D
16 Oldham Athletic	31	9	7	15	35	44	-9	34	L D W L W
17 Bristol City	32	6	14	12	47	52	-5	32	D W D L W
18 Sheffield United	29	8	8	13	29	38	-9	32	W W L D L
19 Tranmere Rovers	31	8	8	15	35	54	-19	32	D L W L W
20 Crawley Town	25	7	10	8	29	34	-5	31	D D W L W
21 Crewe Alexandra	31	8	7	16	34	60	-26	31	L D W L W
22 Notts County	32	9	3	20	40	52	-12	30	L W L L L
23 Shrewsbury Town	31	6	10	15	28	41	-13	28	D L D L L
24 Stevenage	29	7	4	18	28	49	-21	25	L L W L W

LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Chesterfield	30	15	10	5	48	27	+21	55	D W W W D
2 Scunthorpe United	30	13	13	4	42	28	+14	52	D D D D D
3 Oxford United	30	13	12	5	40	24	+16	51	D D W D W
4 Rochdale	29	15	5	9	46	34	+12	50	W L D W W
5 Burton Albion	29	14	8	7	33	28	+5	50	W D L D W
6 Fleetwood Town	29	15	4	10	46	34	+12	49	D L D W W
7 Southend United	29	13	8	8	36	25	+11	47	L D D W D
8 Newport County	26	10	9	7	35	30	+5	39	D L D L L
9 Dagenham & Red…	30	10	9	11	37	38	-1	39	L W D D L
10 Plymouth Argyle	29	10	9	10	27	31	-4	39	W D D L D
11 Hartlepool United	30	10	8	12	32	35	-3	38	W D L W L
12 AFC Wimbledon	30	10	8	12	32	36	-4	38	L L W W D
13 Morecambe	29	10	8	11	33	38	-5	38	L D D D L
14 York City	31	8	12	11	34	37	-3	36	D W L L D
15 Cheltenham Town	30	8	12	10	35	40	-5	36	L D D D L
16 Exeter City	29	9	8	12	34	38	-4	35	D D D L L
17 Mansfield Town	30	8	11	11	32	40	-8	35	W D D D L
18 Bristol Rovers	30	8	10	12	28	32	-4	34	W D L L W
19 Accrington Stanley	28	8	9	11	32	38	-6	33	D W W D L
20 Portsmouth	30	7	12	11	34	43	-9	33	D L W D D
21 Bury	28	7	11	10	32	35	-3	32	D W D L W
22 Wycombe Wander	30	7	10	13	33	39	-6	31	D D L L D
23 Torquay United	29	7	8	14	29	43	-14	29	L W L W D
24 Northampton Town	29	6	8	15	23	40	-17	26	W L D L L

Greece Super League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	25	23	2	0	74	9	+65	71	W W W W W
2 PAOK	25	16	3	6	49	25	+24	51	L L W L W
3 Atromitos	25	14	7	4	38	18	+20	49	L W W W W
4 Panathinaikos	25	14	4	7	38	21	+17	46	W W L D W
5 Asteras Tripolis	25	12	9	4	36	22	+14	45	W L W W D
6 Panaitolikos	25	9	7	9	26	22	+4	34	W L D L W
7 Panthrakikos	25	9	7	9	31	35	-4	34	L L W D W
8 OFI	25	8	9	8	21	28	-7	33	W W L D D
9 PAS Giannina	25	10	2	13	27	35	-8	32	L W W W L
10 Ergotelis	25	7	9	9	25	28	-3	30	L W W W L
11 Xanthi	25	8	5	12	29	39	-10	29	W L L D L
12 Kalloni	25	9	2	14	23	42	-19	29	L W L L D
13 Levadiakos	25	8	3	14	26	43	-17	27	W L D L W
14 Panionios	25	7	6	12	21	29	-8	27	W L L L L
15 Apollon Smirnis	25	6	7	12	30	39	-9	25	L W D L D
16 Platanias	25	5	7	13	22	37	-15	22	L L L W L
17 Veria	25	4	8	13	19	44	-25	20	D L L D L
18 Aris	25	3	9	13	20	39	-19	18	D W D D L

France Ligue 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	25	17	7	1	58	16	+42	58	W D W D W
2 Monaco	25	15	8	2	41	17	+24	53	W D D W W
3 Lille	25	13	6	6	28	16	+12	45	D W L D L
4 Saint-Étienne	25	12	6	7	34	23	+11	42	D D W L W
5 Olympique Mars…	25	11	7	7	37	27	+10	40	D W D W L
6 Olympique Lyonnais	25	11	7	7	40	31	+9	40	W W L W W
7 Reims	25	10	9	6	30	29	+1	39	W W L D L
8 Bastia	25	10	6	9	30	35	-5	36	L W L W W
9 Bordeaux	24	9	7	8	29	26	+3	34	L L W L L
10 Toulouse	25	8	9	8	27	32	-5	33	W L D D L
11 Lorient	24	9	5	10	32	33	-1	32	L D D W L
12 Nantes	25	9	4	12	23	25	-2	31	D L L D L
13 Nice	25	9	4	12	23	30	-7	31	D L W L W
14 Montpellier	25	5	14	6	31	31	+0	29	D D W W W
15 Rennes	25	6	10	9	28	30	-2	28	D L W D D
16 Guingamp	25	6	8	11	23	28	-5	26	L L L D L
17 Evian TG	25	5	9	11	24	41	-17	24	D D D L D
18 Valenciennes	25	5	6	14	24	40	-16	21	L W L L D
19 Sochaux	25	4	6	15	18	46	-28	18	W L W D L
20 Ajaccio	25	2	8	15	20	44	-24	14	L W D D L

Portugal Premeira Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Benfica	19	14	4	1	36	13	+23	46	W W D W W
2 Porto	19	13	3	3	37	13	+24	42	W W L W L
3 Sporting CP	19	12	5	2	36	12	+24	41	W L D W D
4 Estoril	19	9	6	4	29	20	+9	33	W W D D D
5 Nacional	19	8	8	3	28	19	+9	32	D W W D W
6 Vitória Guimarães	19	9	2	8	21	18	+3	29	W L L W L
7 Sporting Braga	19	8	2	9	27	23	+4	26	L W L D W
8 Marítimo	19	6	6	7	27	31	-4	24	W D W L D
9 Académica	19	6	5	8	12	21	-9	23	D L D W W
10 Rio Ave	19	6	4	9	14	20	-6	22	L D L W D
11 Vitória Setúbal	19	6	4	9	22	31	-9	22	L W W L L
12 Gil Vicente	19	5	4	10	16	28	-12	19	L L D L L
13 Arouca	19	4	6	9	17	24	-7	18	D D D L W
14 Belenenses	19	3	7	9	11	22	-11	16	D L W L L
15 Olhanense	19	3	4	12	12	30	-18	13	L D L L W
16 Paços de Ferreira	19	3	4	12	16	36	-20	13	L L W D L

One Game At A Time

France
Monaco v Reims
Olympique Mars… v Lorient
Bastia v Saint-Étienne
Bordeaux v Evian TG
Guingamp v Nice
Montpellier v Ajaccio
Valenciennes v Sochaux
Toulouse v PSG
Nantes v Rennes
Lille v Olympique Lyonnais

Germany
Schalke 04 v Mainz 05
Borussia M'gla… v Hoffenheim
Stuttgart v Hertha BSC
Nürnberg v Eintracht Brau…
Freiburg v Augsburg
Hamburger SV v Borussia Dortmund
Wolfsburg v Bayer Leverkusen
Eintracht Fran… v Werder Bremen
Hannover 96 v Bayern München

Croatia
Hrvatski Drago… v Dinamo Zagreb
Slaven Koprivnica v Istra 1961
Lokomotiva Zagreb v Hajduk Split
Split v Zadar
Rijeka v Osijek
Rijeka v Dinamo Zagreb

Serbia
Radnički Kragu v Radnički Niš
Novi Pazar v Partizan
Čukarički v Rad Beograd
Spartak Subotica v Sloboda Užice
Voždovac v OFK Beograd
Donji Srem v Vojvodina
Crvena Zvezda v Javor Ivanjica
Napredak v Jagodina

League resumes Saturday 23rd Feb 2014 due to winter break

English Championship
Middlesbrough v Leeds United
Burnley v Nottingham Forest
Bolton Wanderers v Watford
Derby County v AFC Bournemouth
Leicester City v Ipswich Town
Brighton & Hov… v Wigan Athletic
Reading v Blackburn Rovers
Yeovil Town v Doncaster Rovers
Barnsley v Millwall
Charlton Athletic v Queens Park Ra…
Huddersfield Town v Sheffield Wedn…
Blackpool v Birmingham City

English League One
Walsall v Crawley Town
Notts County v Shrewsbury Town
Stevenage v Peterborough U…
Bradford City v Milton Keynes Dons
Oldham Athletic v Gillingham
Colchester United v Preston North End
Carlisle United v Rotherham United
Leyton Orient v Swindon Town
Sheffield United v Bristol City
Brentford v Wolverhampton …
Tranmere Rovers v Coventry City
Port Vale v Crewe Alexandra

English League Two
Bristol Rovers v Burton Albion
Scunthorpe United v Portsmouth
Northampton Town v Hartlepool United
Dagenham & Red… v Plymouth Argyle
Morecambe v Oxford United
Exeter City v Rochdale
Torquay United v Accrington Stanley
Newport County v Cheltenham Town
York City v Southend United
Wycombe Wanderers v Chesterfield
Mansfield Town v Fleetwood Town
AFC Wimbledon v Bury

Scotland
Dundee United v Motherwell
Heart of Midlo… v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Hibernian
Partick Thistle v Aberdeen
Ross County v St. Mirren
St. Johnstone v Inverness CT

Greece
Levadiakos v Asteras Tripolis
Apollon Smirnis v Panionios
OFI v Olympiakos Piraeus
Panathinaikos v Ergotelis
Atromitos v Xanthi
Platanias v Aris
PAS Giannina v Veria
PAOK v Panthrakikos
Kalloni v Panaitolikos

Turkey
Bursaspor v Rizespor
Gaziantepspor v Akhisar Beledi…
Kayseri Erciye… v Karabükspor
Galatasaray v Beşiktaş
Gençlerbirliği v Konyaspor
Kasımpaşa v Sivasspor
Antalyaspor v Eskişehirspor
Trabzonspor v Kayserispor
Elazığspor v Fenerbahçe

Holland
ADO Den Haag v Go Ahead Eagles
Heerenveen v NAC Breda
Cambuur v Roda JC
PEC Zwolle v Heracles
NEC v PSV
Utrecht v Groningen
Ajax v AZ
Vitesse v RKC Waalwijk
Twente v Feyenoord

Portugal
Académica v Nacional
Sporting Braga v Arouca
Rio Ave v Sporting CP
Olhanense v Gil Vicente
Vitória Setúbal v Paços de Ferreira
Marítimo v Belenenses
Porto v Estoril
Benfica v Vitória Guimarães

European Results

THE CHAMPIONSHIP
Birmingham City 1 - 2 Huddersfield Town
Doncaster Rovers 2 - 2 Barnsley
Ipswich Town 0 - 0 Blackpool
AFC Bournemouth 1 - 1 Burnley
Millwall 1 - 1 Bolton Wanderers
Watford 1 - 0 Middlesbrough
Queens Park Ra… 1 - 3 3Reading

Mid Week
Yeovil Town 0 - 0 Watford
Wigan Athletic 2 - 0 Barnsley
Sheffield Wedn… 0 - 1 Derby County
Nottingham Forest 2 - 2 Leicester City

ENGLISH LEAGUE ONE
Swindon Town 0 - 0 Colchester United
Peterborough U… 0 - 0 Walsall
Shrewsbury Town 0 - 0 Port Vale
Coventry City PSTP Bradford City
Crawley Town PSTP Carlisle United
Milton Keynes Dons 2 - 1 Oldham Athletic
Crewe Alexandra 1 - 3 Brentford
Wolverhampton … 2 - 0 Notts County
Rotherham United 2 - 1 Stevenage
Bristol City 2 - 2 Tranmere Rovers
Preston North End 1 - 1 Leyton Orient

Mid Week
Leyton Orient 2 - 0 Stevenage
Coventry City 1 - 2 Carlisle United
Milton Keynes Dons 0 - 0 Preston North End
Bradford City 1 - 0 Port Vale
Gillingham 0 - 1 Sheffield United

ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO
Accrington Stanley 2 - 3 Scunthorpe United
Southend United 2 - 3 Exeter City
Cheltenham PSTP Wycombe Wanderers
Fleetwood Town 2 - 0 Northampton Town
Plymouth Argyle 0 - 4 York City
Oxford United 3 - 0 Mansfield Town
Portsmouth 1 - 0 AFC Wimbledon
Hartlepool United 3 - 0 Newport County
Rochdale 2 - 1 Morecambe
Burton Albion 1 - 1 Dagenham & Red…
Chesterfield 3 - 1 Torquay United

Mid Week
Newport County 3 - 2 Oxford United
Rochdale 1 - 1 Burton Albion
Southend United 1 - 1 Hartlepool United
Exeter City 1 - 1 Morecambe
Accrington Stanley 0 - 0 Bury

CROATIA
Hajduk Split 2 - 1 Hrvatski Drago…
Istra 1961 2 - 4 Lokomotiva Zagreb
Dinamo Zagreb 2 - 1 Split
Osijek 4 - 1 Slaven Koprivnica
Zadar 1 - 0 Rijeka

FRANCE
PSG 3 - 0 Valenciennes
Bastia 0 - 2 Monaco
Lorient 1 - 3 Toulouse
Nice 0 - 0 Nantes
Reims 1 - 0 Bordeaux
Rennes 2 - 2 Montpellier
Sochaux 1 - 0 Guingamp
Olympique Lyonnais 3 - 1 Ajaccio
Evian TG 2 - 2 Lille
Saint-Étienne 1 - 1 Olympique Mars…

GERMANY
Mainz 05 2 - 0 Hannover 96
Borussia Dortmund 4 - 0 Eintracht Fran…
Bayern München 4 - 0 Freiburg
Werder Bremen 1 - 1 Borussia M'gla…
Hoffenheim 4 - 1 Stuttgart
Eintracht Brau… 4 - 2 Hamburger SV
Bayer Leverkusen 1 - 2 Schalke 04
Augsburg 0 - 1 Nürnberg
Hertha BSC 1 - 2 Wolfsburg

GREECE
Xanthi 1 - 0 Kalloni
Levadiakos 1 - 0 Atromitos
Olympiakos Piraeus 4 - 2 Platanias
Asteras Tripolis 2 - 1 PAOK
Panaitolikos 2 - 1 Apollon Smirnis
Panionios 2 - 0 PAS Giannina
Aris 0 - 0 Veria
Panthrakikos 0 - 2 Panathinaikos
Ergotelis 0 - 1 OFI

HOLLAND
PSV 2 - 1 Heracles
Twente 2 - 0 Vitesse
RKC Waalwijk 1 - 3 NEC
Roda JC 0 - 1 ADO Den Haag
AZ 1 - 1 Utrecht
Cambuur 3 - 1 PEC Zwolle
NAC Breda 1 - 1 Feyenoord
Groningen 1 - 0 Go Ahead Eagles
Ajax 3 - 0 Heerenveen

PORTUGAL
Belenenses 0 - 0 Académica
Sporting CP 1 - 0 Olhanense
Marítimo 1 - 0 Vitória Setúbal
Arouca 1 - 1 Nacional
Vitória Guimarães 1 - 0 Rio Ave
Paços de Ferreira 0 - 2 Benfica
Gil Vicente 1 - 2 Porto
Estoril 2 - 1 Sporting Braga

SCOTLAND
St. Mirren 0 - 1 Aberdeen
Dundee United 3 - 2 Kilmarnock
Hibernian 2 - 1 Ross County
Inverness CT 0 - 0 Heart of Midlo…
Motherwell 4 - 3 Partick Thistle
Celtic 3 - 0 St. Johnstone
Inverness CT PSTP Hibernian

TURKEY
Rizespor 5 - 1 Gaziantepspor
Kayserispor 1 - 0 Gençlerbirliği
Karabükspor 2 - 2 Trabzonspor
Akhisar Beledi… 0 - 2 Kayseri Erciye…
Beşiktaş 1 - 0 Bursaspor
Fenerbahçe 2 - 1 Kasımpaşa
Konyaspor 2 - 3 Elazığspor
Antalyaspor 2 - 2 Galatasaray
Eskişehirspor 2 - 2 Sivasspor

FA Cup 5th Round
Sunderland 1 - 0 Southampton
Cardiff City 1 - 2 Wigan Athletic
Manchester City 2 - 0 Chelsea
Everton 3 - 1 Swansea City
Sheffield United 3 - 1 Nottingham Forest
Arsenal 2 - 1 Liverpool
Brighton & Hov… 1 - 1 Hull City
Sheffield Wedn… v Charlton Athletic

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